

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

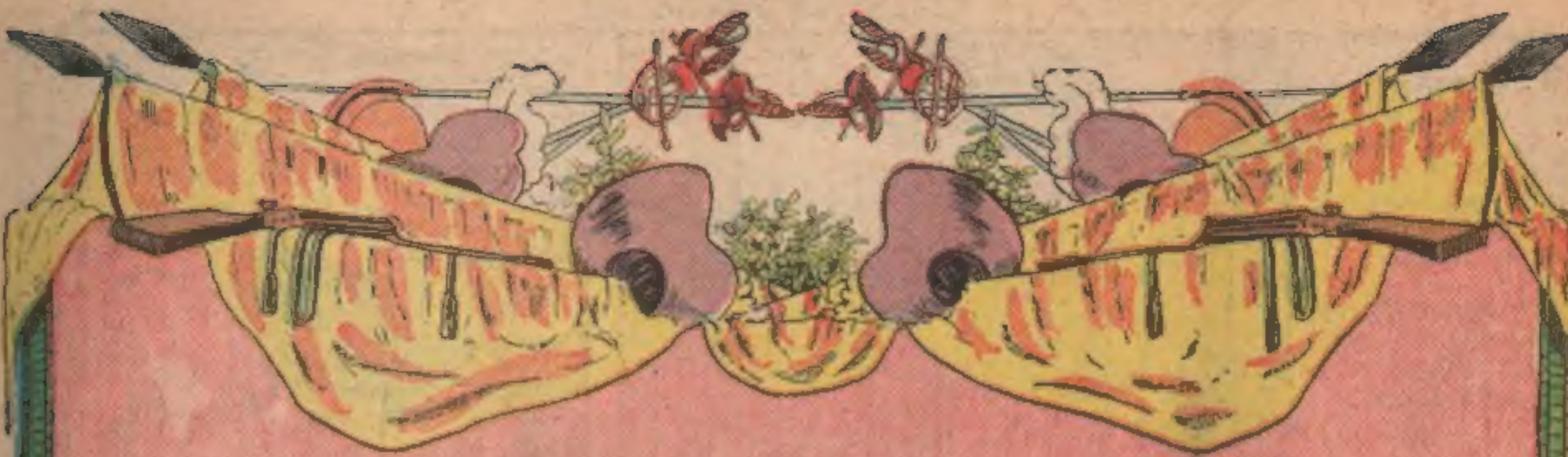
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No. 1 15¢

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Alexandre Dumas





The Three Musketeers

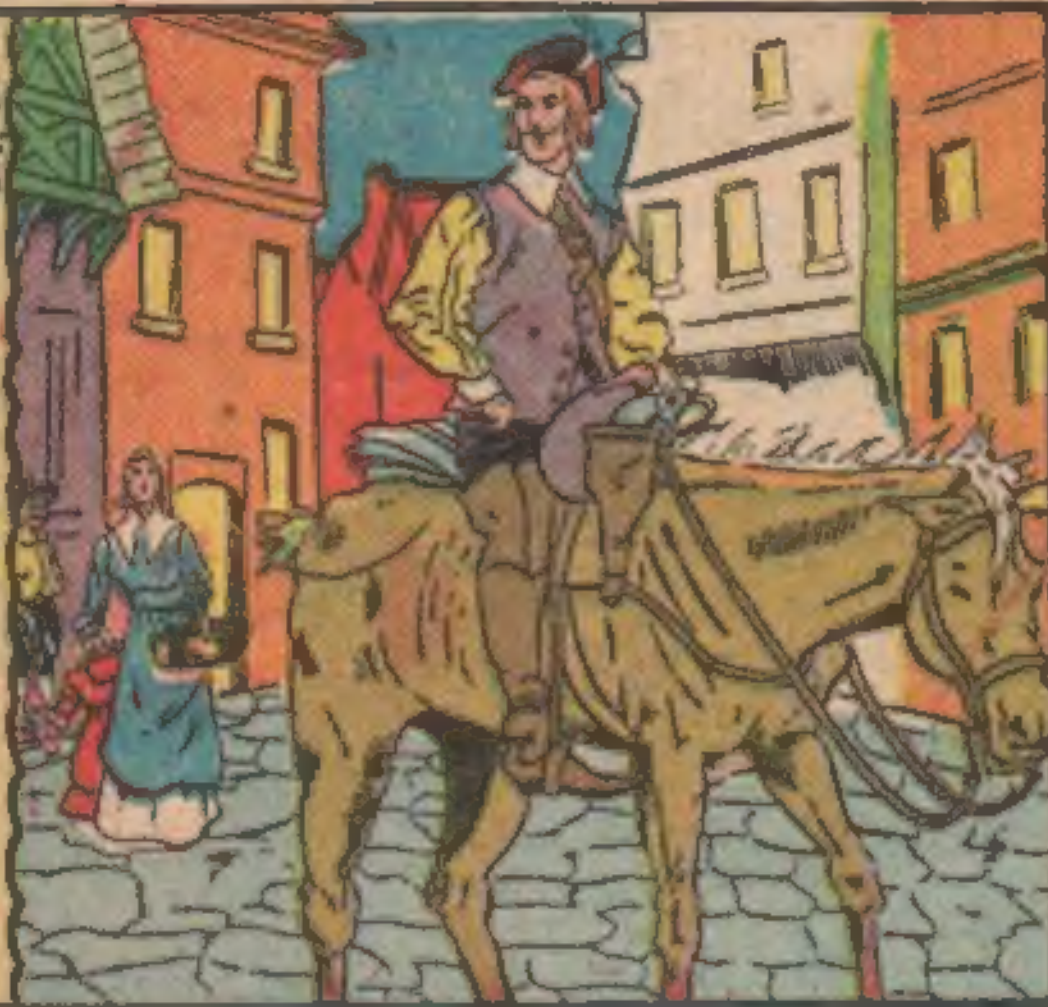
BY
*Alexandre
Dumas*

DRAWN
by
MALCOLM
KILDALE



D'ARTAGNAN, ON HIS WRETCHED YELLOW PONY, ENTERS THE CITY OF MEUNG AND HALTS BEFORE A HOTEL.

THE HOST IS STANDING AT THE DOOR WITH THREE MEN.



WHAT AN ORIGINAL COLOR! QUITE COMMON IN BOTANY, BUT UNTIL NOW VERY RARE AMONG HORSES — HA-HA!

I DO NOT LIKE THE LAUGHTER OF THAT MAN! ZOUNDS! HE IS RIDICULING MY HORSE!



YOU, SIR, MAY LAUGH AT MY HORSE BUT NOT AT ITS MASTER. ON GUARD, MASTER JOKER, LEST I RUN YOU THROUGH!



ATTACKED BY THE HOST AND THE STRANGER'S FRIENDS, D'ARTAGNAN IS BEATEN SENSELESS WHILE HIS OPPONENT WITHDRAWS.



REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, D'ARTAGNAN SEES HIS NEMESIS FLEEING IN A COACH WITH A BEAUTIFUL LADY.

BASE COWARD! FALSE GENTLEMAN! RETURN SO THAT I MAY CHASTISE YOUR INSOLENCE!



MY LETTER, YOU THIEVING RUFFIAN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY LETTER?

MERCY, MONSIEUR, I DO NOT HAVE IT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY YOUR ADVERSARY WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.



AFTER SELLING HIS HORSE, D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE GATES OF PARIS ON FOOT.



D'ARTAGNAN PRESENTS HIMSELF BEFORE THE HOTEL OF M. DE TREVILLE, WHICH IS FILLED WITH DUELING, ROISTERING MUSKETEERS, AND REQUESTS AN INTERVIEW WITH THEIR CAPTAIN...



MONSIEUR DE TREVILLE AWAITS M. D'ARTAGNAN.



MONSIEUR, IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FRIENDSHIP YOU HAVE FOR MY FATHER, I HUMBLY REQUEST FROM YOU THE UNIFORM OF A MUSKETEER.



D'ARTAGNAN RELATES HOW HE LOST HIS LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, AND DESCRIBES IN DETAIL HIS ADVENTURES IN THE CITY OF MEUNG.



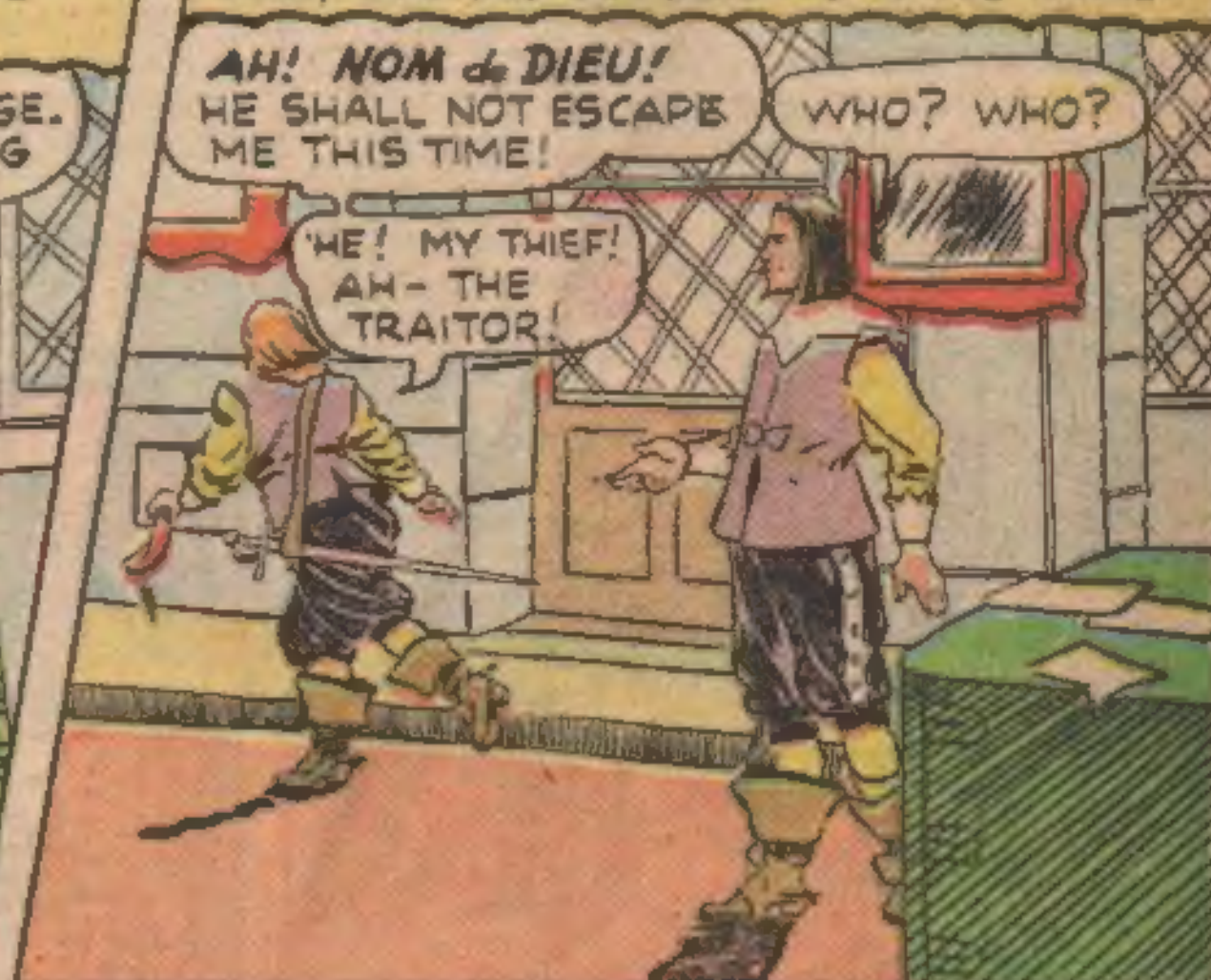
THAT IS ALL VERY STRANGE. YOU SAY HE WAS TALKING TO A WOMAN?

GLANCING THROUGH THE WINDOW, D'ARTAGNAN SEES HIS HATED RIVAL.

AH! NOM & DIEU! HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE ME THIS TIME!

WHO? WHO?

HE! MY THIEF! AH - THE TRAITOR!



IN HIS HASTE, D'ARTAGNAN RUNS HEADLONG INTO ATHOS, ONE OF THE MUSKETEERS.



EXCUSE ME FOR RUNNING AGAINST YOU, BUT I AM IN A HURRY.

I CAN PARDON YOUR HASTE, SIR, BUT NOT YOUR MANNERS.



MORBLEU, SIR, IF I WERE NOT IN A HURRY, I COULD GIVE YOU A LESSON IN MANNERS!

A LESSON IN MANNERS? SHALL WE SAY AT NOON? AT NOON NEAR THE CARMES DESCHAUX?





D'ARTAGNAN ENTERS THE GARDEN AT THE CARMES DESCHAUX AND FINDS ATHOS WAITING—



MONSIEUR, I HAVE ENGAGED TWO OF MY FRIENDS AS SECONDS. THEY WILL BE HERE SHORTLY.



ON MY PART, I HAVE NO SECONDS, HAVING ONLY YESTERDAY ARRIVED IN PARIS.

AH! THERE THEY ARE NOW!

WHAT? ARE YOUR SECONDS PORTHOS AND ARAMIS?



PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE THE GENTLEMAN WITH WHOM I AM GOING TO FIGHT.



WHY, HE IS THE ONE THAT I AM GOING TO FIGHT!

BUT NOT BEFORE ONE O'CLOCK!

AND I AM ALSO GOING TO FIGHT THE GENTLEMAN!

BUT NOT BEFORE TWO O'CLOCK!



AND NOW, MONSIEUR, IF YOU ARE READY, ON GUARD!



THE CARDINAL'S GUARDS! THE CARDINAL'S GUARDS! SHEATHE SWORDS! GENTLEMEN! SHEATHE SWORDS!



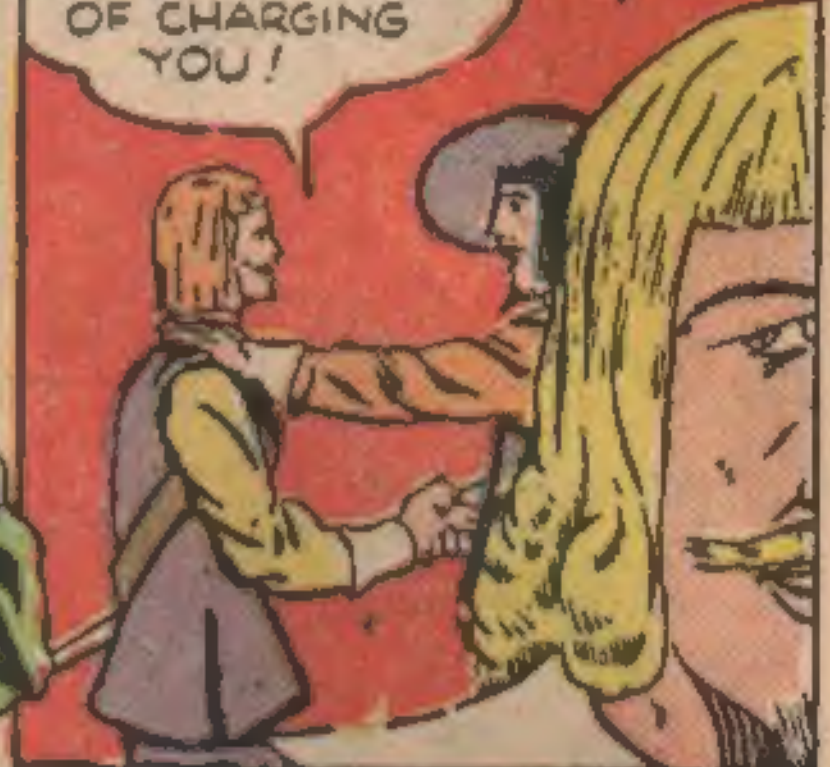
HOLA! MUSKETEERS, FIGHTING ARE YOU? YOU ARE UNDER ARREST. SHEATHE, PLEASE, AND FOLLOW US. WE WILL CHARGE IF YOU DISOBEY!



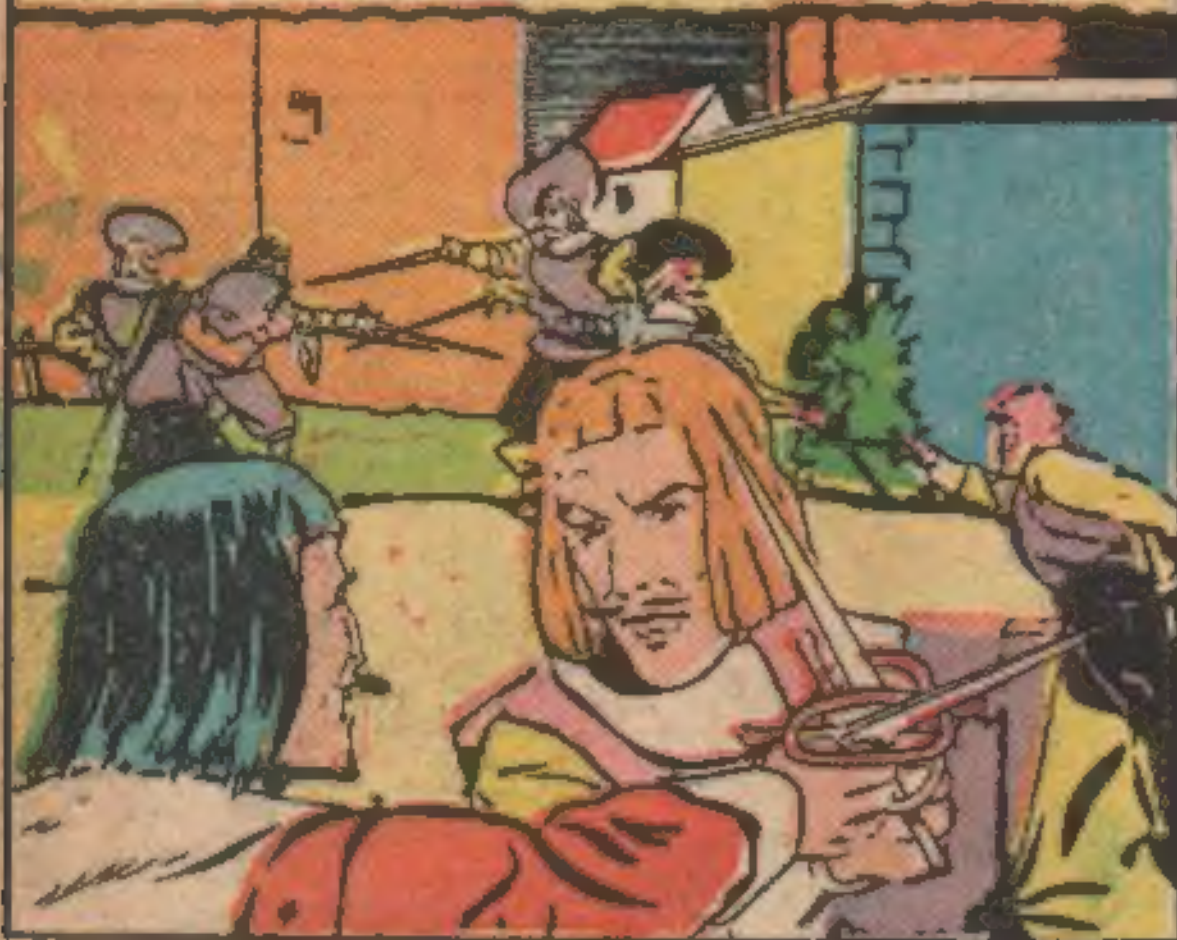
CLOSE IN, GENTLEMEN. THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM AND WE ARE BUT THREE. ON MY PART I SHALL NEVER SURRENDER!

GENTLEMEN! I DO NOT WEAR YOUR UNIFORM, BUT MY HEART IS THAT OF A MUSKETEER. ALLOW ME TO CORRECT YOUR WORDS. WE ARE NOT THREE, BUT FOUR!

DECIDEDLY, YOU ARE A GALLANT FELLOW! THEN IT IS DONE - ON GUARD, GENTLEMEN, WE ARE ABOUT TO HAVE THE HONOR OF CHARGING YOU!



THE NINE COMBATANTS RUSH UPON EACH OTHER. ATHOS FIXES UPON CAHUSAC. PORTHOS CHOOSES BICARAT AND ARAMIS TAKES ON TWO AT ONCE.



D'ARTAGNAN SPRINGS LIKE A FURIOUS TIGER TOWARD JUSSAC, THE LEADER, ATTACKING HIM ON ALL SIDES AT ONCE, AND YET PARRYING LIKE A MAN WHO HAS THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR HIS OWN EPIDERMIS

JUSSAC, FURIOUS AT BEING HELD IN CHECK BY HIM WHOM HE CONSIDERS A BOY, COMMITS A FAULT AND D'ARTAGNAN RUNS HIM THROUGH --



THEN, D'ARTAGNAN, LOOKING AROUND, SEES THAT PORTHOS IS HOLDING HIS OWN AND ARAMIS HAS KILLED ONE MAN. ATHOS, HOWEVER, WEAKENED BY AN OLD WOUND WHICH HAS OPENED, IS IN NEED OF HELP ---



D'ARTAGNAN LEAPS TO THE SIDE OF CAHUSAC



GAHUSAC SOON FALLS WITH A SWORD-THRUST THROUGH THE THROAT.



ARAMIS, WITH A LIGHTNING-FAST LUNGE, DISABLES HIS REMAINING OPPONENT.

BICARAT, SURROUNDED BY FOUR MUSKETEERS, IS FORCED TO SURRENDER.



ARM IN ARM, THE COMRADES TAKE THE ROAD TO THE HOTEL OF M. DE TREVILLE. THE HEART OF D'ARTAGNAN IS BURSTING WITH JOY.



THAT NIGHT THEY DINE IN SPLENDOR, WAITED ON BY FOUR LACKEYS.



THE FOUR COMPANIONS, THOUGH RICH IN SPIRIT, ARE POOR IN MONEY. EACH TAKES TURNS SUPPORTING THE ASSOCIATION WITH HIS OWN MEANS.

D'ARTAGNAN, THE POOREST, FANCIES HIMSELF A BURDEN TO THE SOCIETY, AND IS SCHEMING OF WAYS TO RAISE MONEY WHEN HIS LANDLORD ENTERS —



I AM BONACIEUX, YOUR LANDLORD. I HAVE HEARD OF YOU AS A VERY BRAVE MAN AND HAVE COME TO CONFIDE A SECRET.



I HAVE A WIFE WHO IS SEAMSTRESS TO THE QUEEN. YESTERDAY SHE WAS CARRIED OFF AS SHE WAS LEAVING THE PALACE.

CARRIED OFF? BY WHOM?



I DO NOT KNOW, BUT I SUSPECT A MAN OF LOFTY CARRIAGE, PIERCING EYES AND A SCAR ON HIS TEMPLE

A SCAR ON HIS TEMPLE? WHY, THAT'S MY MAN OF MEUNG!



HE IS YOUR MAN, YOU SAY?

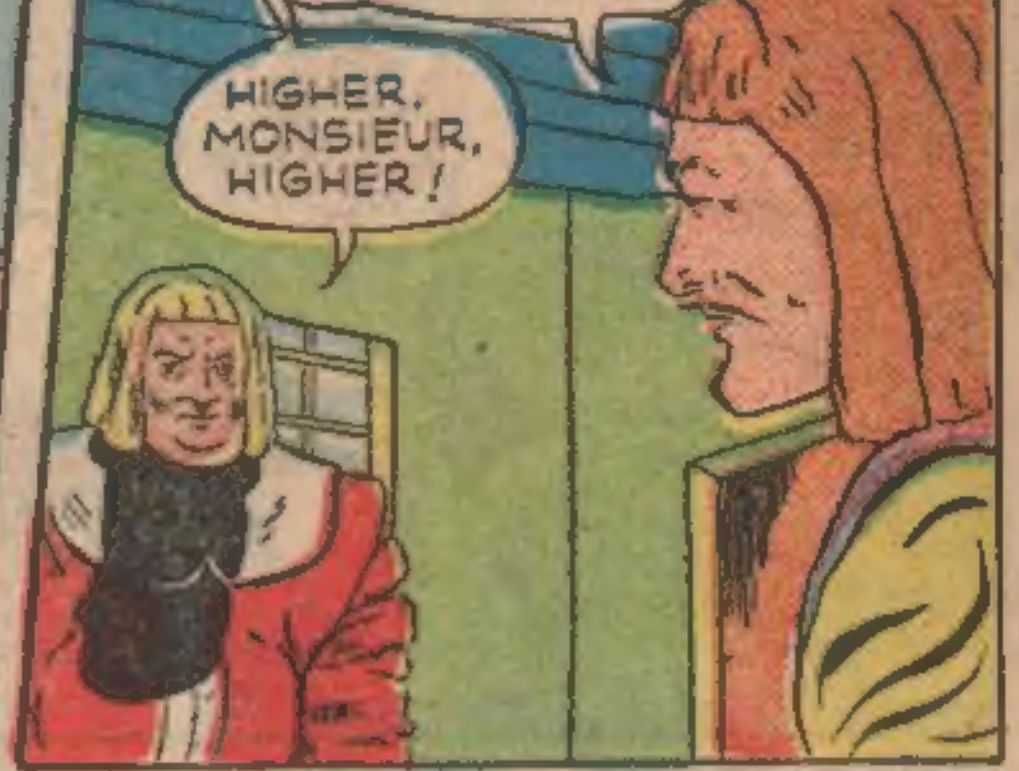
YES, BUT GO ON. WHY WAS YOUR WIFE CARRIED OFF?



IT HAS BEEN DONE ON ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF A MUCH GREATER LADY THAN SHE IS.

AH! CAN IT BE ON ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF MADAME DE-BOIS-TRACY?

HIGHER, MONSIEUR, HIGHER!



OF MADAME DE CHEVREUSE?

HIGHER; MUCH HIGHER.



OF THE —?

YES, MONSIEUR. **THE QUEEN!**



AND WITH WHOM?

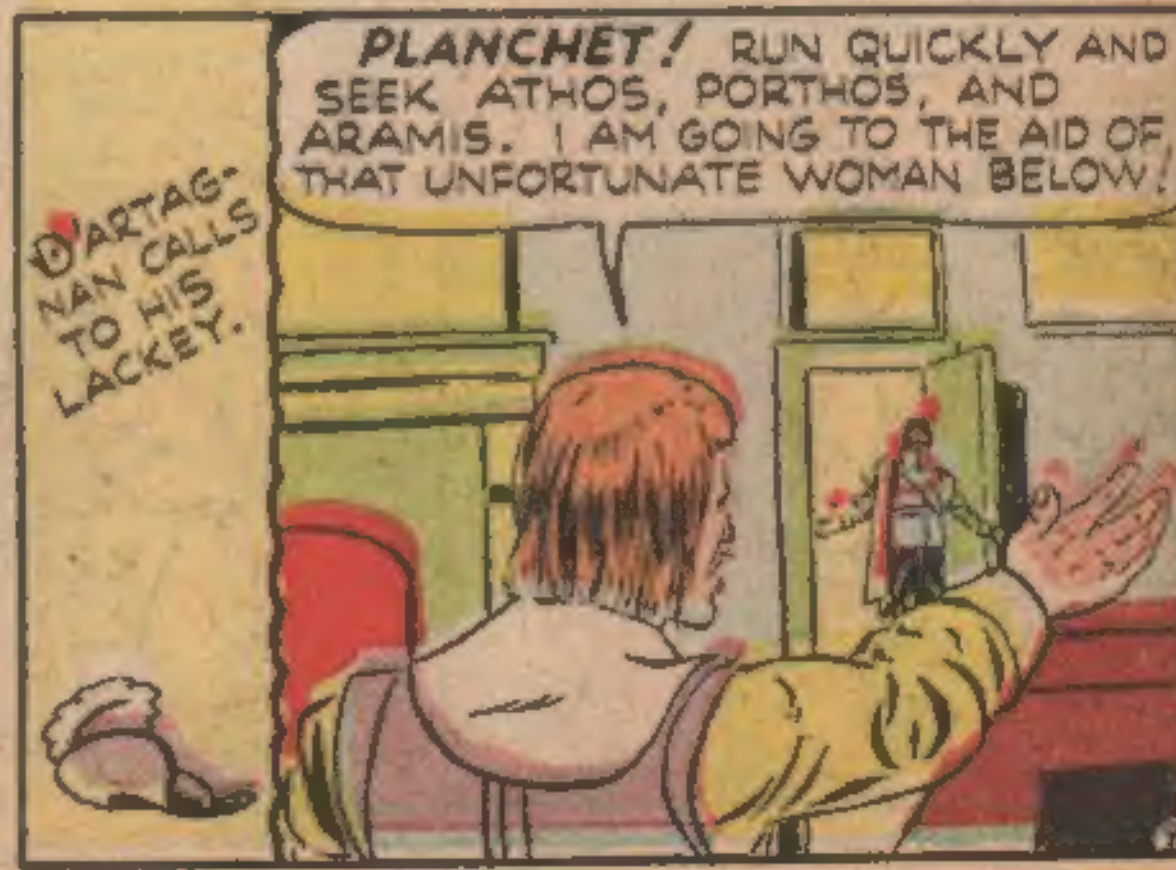
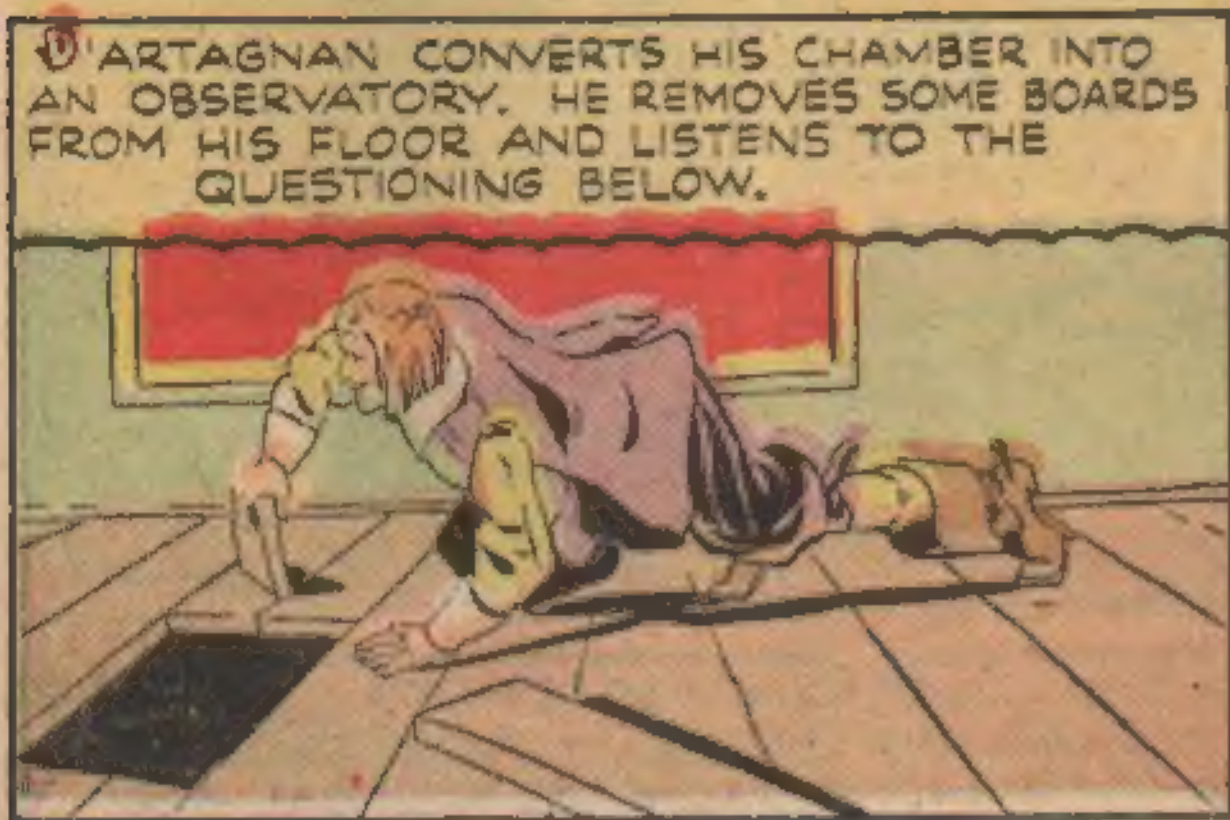
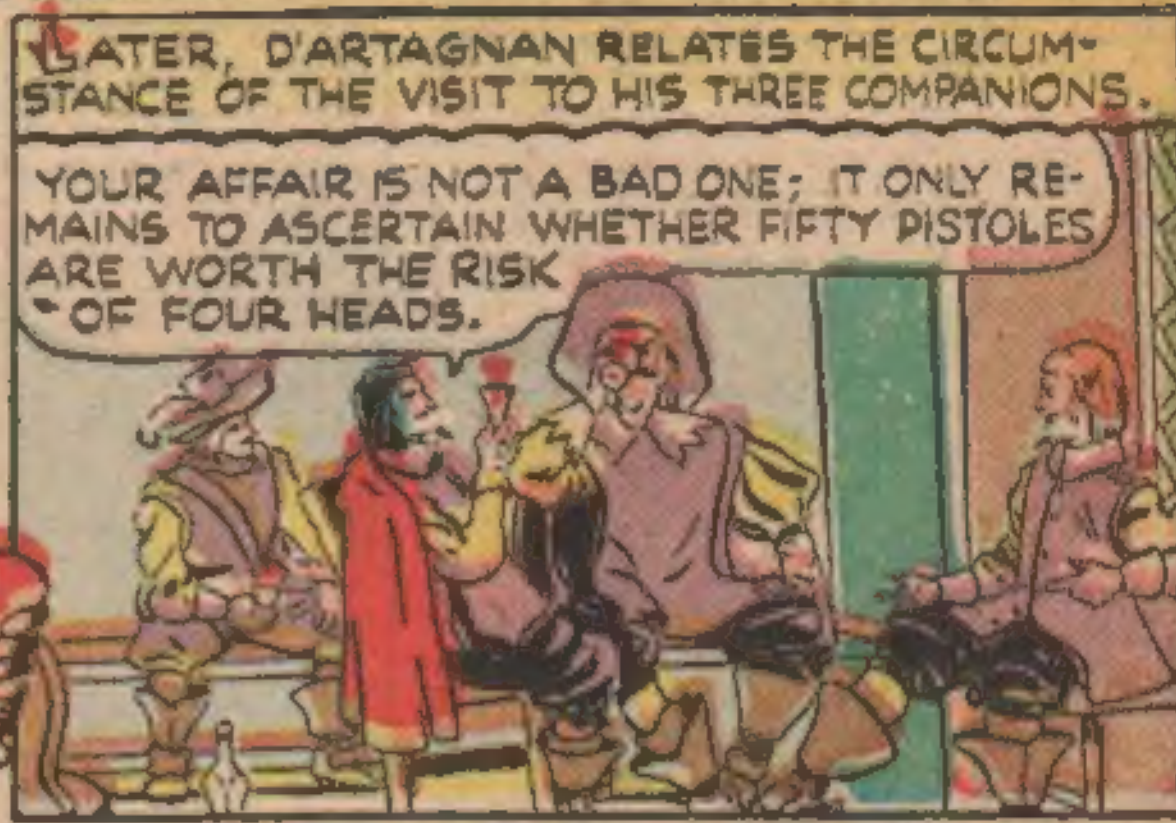
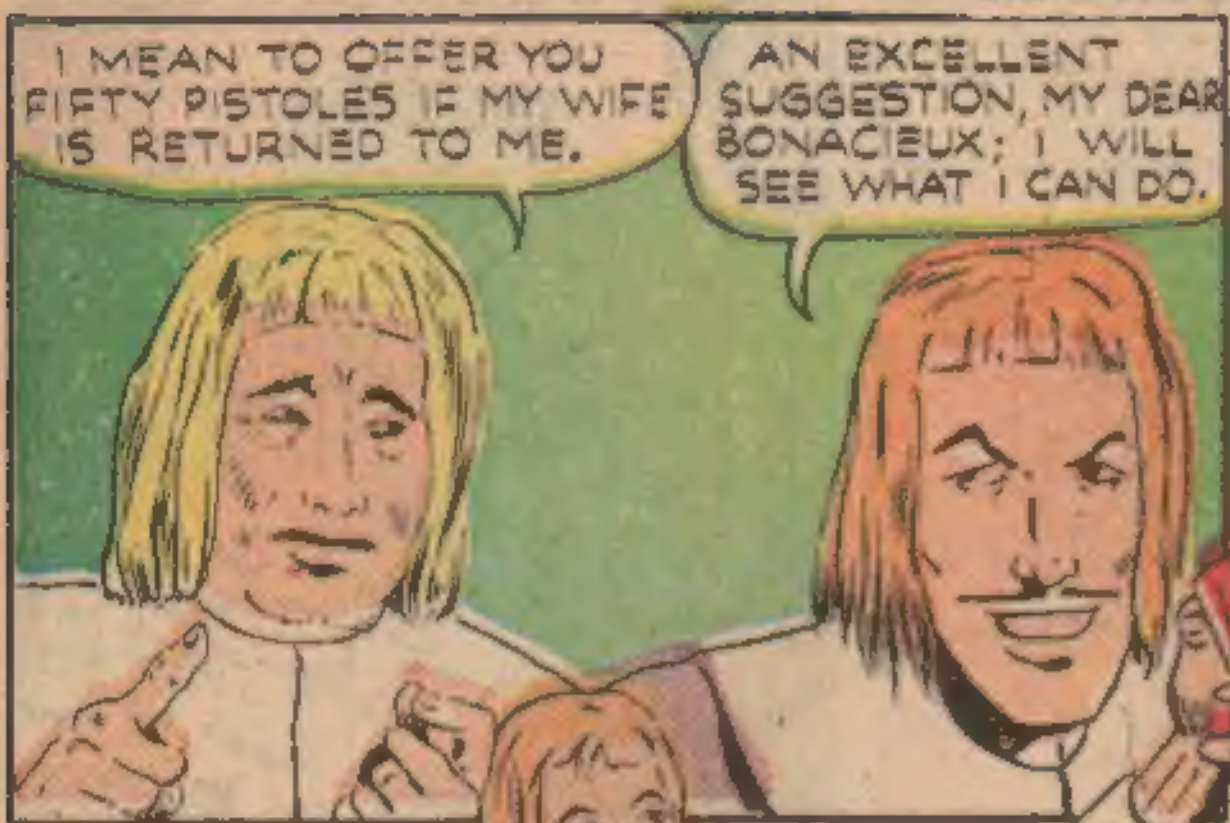
WITH WHOM CAN IT BE, IF NOT THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM?



HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

FROM MY WIFE, WHO IS IN THE QUEEN'S CONFIDENCE. THE DUKE HAS BEEN LURED TO PARIS BY A FORGED LETTER. THE QUEEN'S HONOR IS AT STAKE.





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BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MASTER?

I WILL GO MYSELF AND BE CAUGHT IN THE NET, BUT WOE BE TO THE CATS THAT SHALL POUNCE ON SUCH A MOUSE!

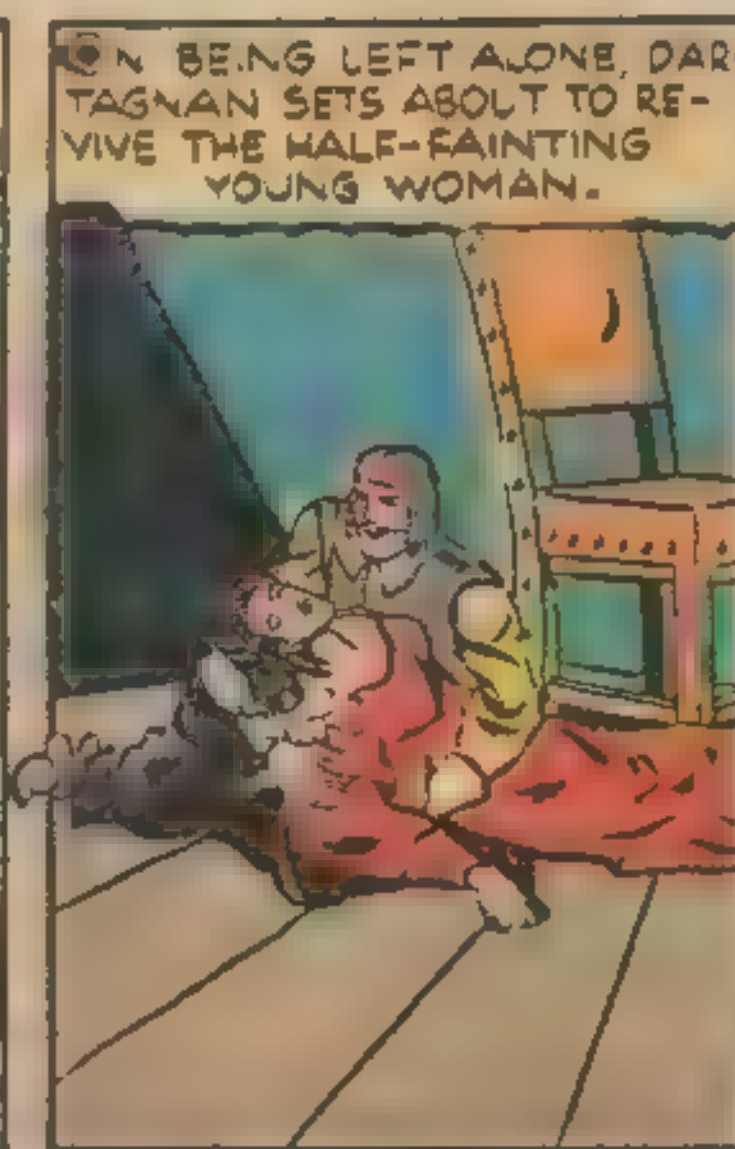


D'ARTAGNAN, SWORD IN HAND, RUSHES INTO THE APARTMENT OF MASTER BONACIEUX...

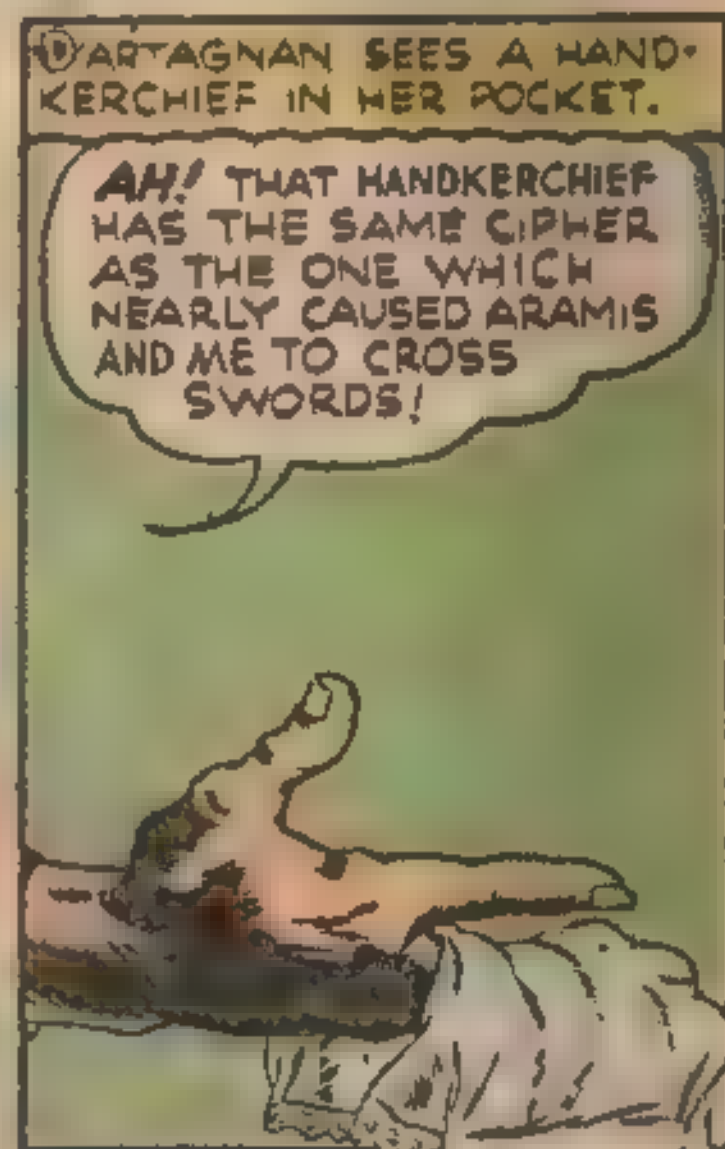


AFTER A BRIEF FIGHT, FOUR MEN FLY OUT OF THE DOOR LIKE SO MANY FRIGHTENED CROWS.

AH! MONSIEUR, YOU HAVE SAVED ME; PERMIT ME TO THANK YOU!



ON BEING LEFT ALONE, D'ARTAGNAN SETS ABOUT TO REVIVE THE HALF-FAINTING YOUNG WOMAN.



D'ARTAGNAN SEES A HANDKERCHIEF IN HER POCKET.

AH! THAT HANDKERCHIEF HAS THE SAME CIPHER AS THE ONE WHICH NEARLY CAUSED ARAMIS AND ME TO CROSS SWORDS!

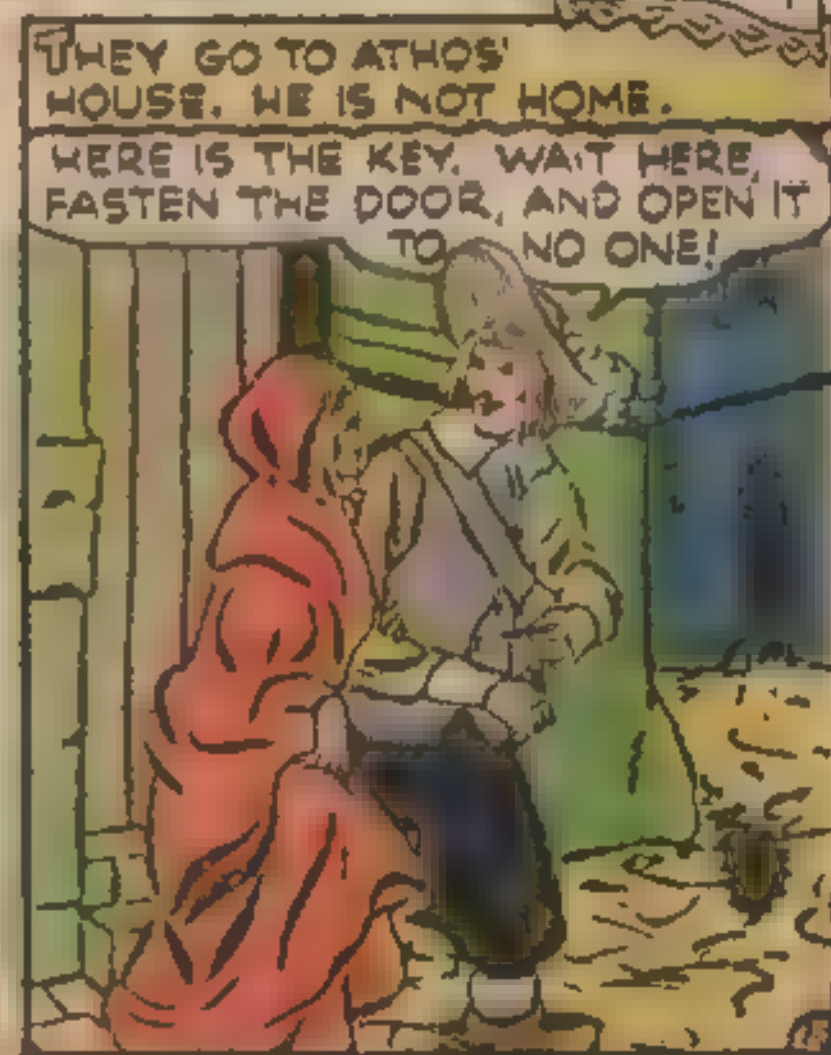


MADAME, I HAVE ONLY DONE WHAT EVERY GENTLEMAN WOULD HAVE DONE IN MY PLACE. YOU OWE ME NO THANKS.



THE MEN I HAVE PUT TO FLIGHT WILL RETURN RE-INFORCED; IF THEY FIND US HERE WE ARE LOST! LET US GO!

YES, YES! YOU ARE RIGHT! I ESCAPED ONCE BUT MAY NOT AGAIN BE SO FORTUNATE! LET US FLY!



THEY GO TO ATHOS' HOUSE. HE IS NOT HOME. HERE IS THE KEY. WAIT HERE, FASTEN THE DOOR, AND OPEN IT TO NO ONE!

THINKING OF THE CHARMING MADAME BONACEUX, WHO HAD TOUCHED HIS YOUNG HEART D'ARTAGNAN PENSIVELY TAKES THE LONGEST WAY HOME.



IT IS DARK AND THE STREETS ARE DESERTED. D'ARTAGNAN SEES A SMALL, SHADOWY FIGURE, ENVELOPED IN A CLOAK, APPROACH A HOUSE AND TAP THRICE ON THE WINDOW!



D'ARTAGNAN CONCEALS HIMSELF IN THE DARKEST SIDE OF THE STREET AND WATCHES.

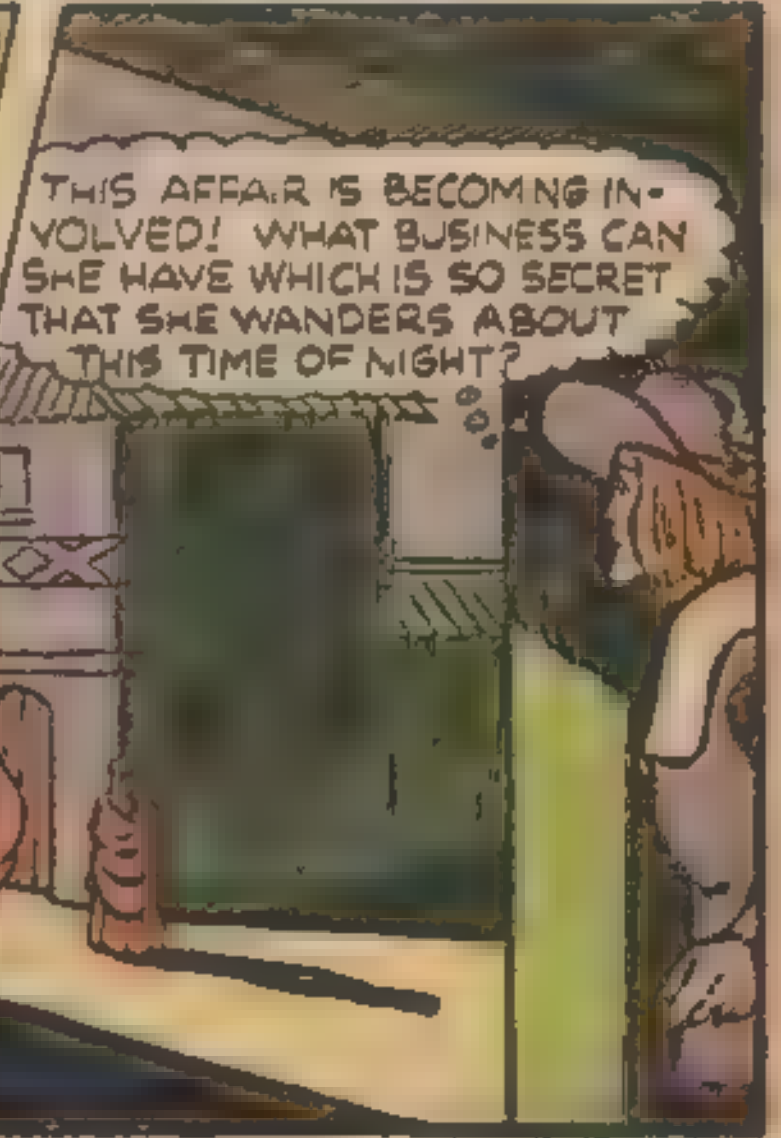


THE THREE TAPS ARE ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY BY THE OPENING IN THE CASEMENT. THE NOCTURNAL VISITOR EXCHANGES HANDKERCHIEFS WITH THE PERSON IN THE HOUSE.



MON DIEU! THAT IS NOT ARAMIS, BUT ANOTHER WOMAN! WHAT CAN THOSE HANDKERCHIEFS MEAN?

THE SHUTTER IS CLOSED AND THE CLOAKED FIGURE PASSES WITHIN FOUR STEPS OF D'ARTAGNAN. IT IS MADAME BONACEUX.



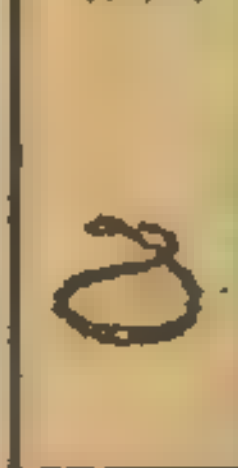
THIS AFFAIR IS BECOMING INVOLVED! WHAT BUSINESS CAN SHE HAVE WHICH IS SO SECRET THAT SHE WANDERS ABOUT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS MME. BONACEUX. AT THE TOP OF THE RUE GUENEGAUD, SHE MEETS A MAN WHO CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN ARAMIS.

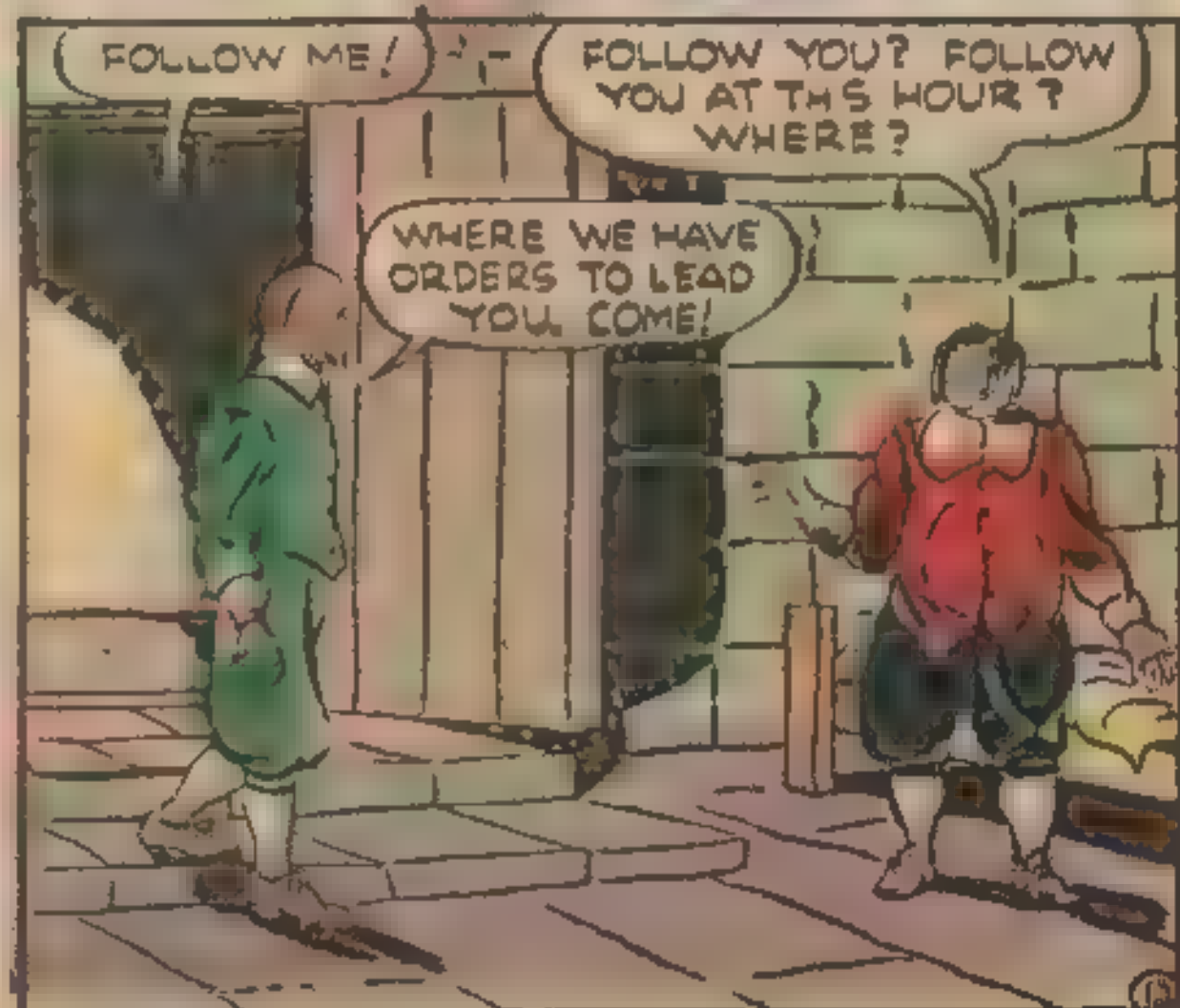
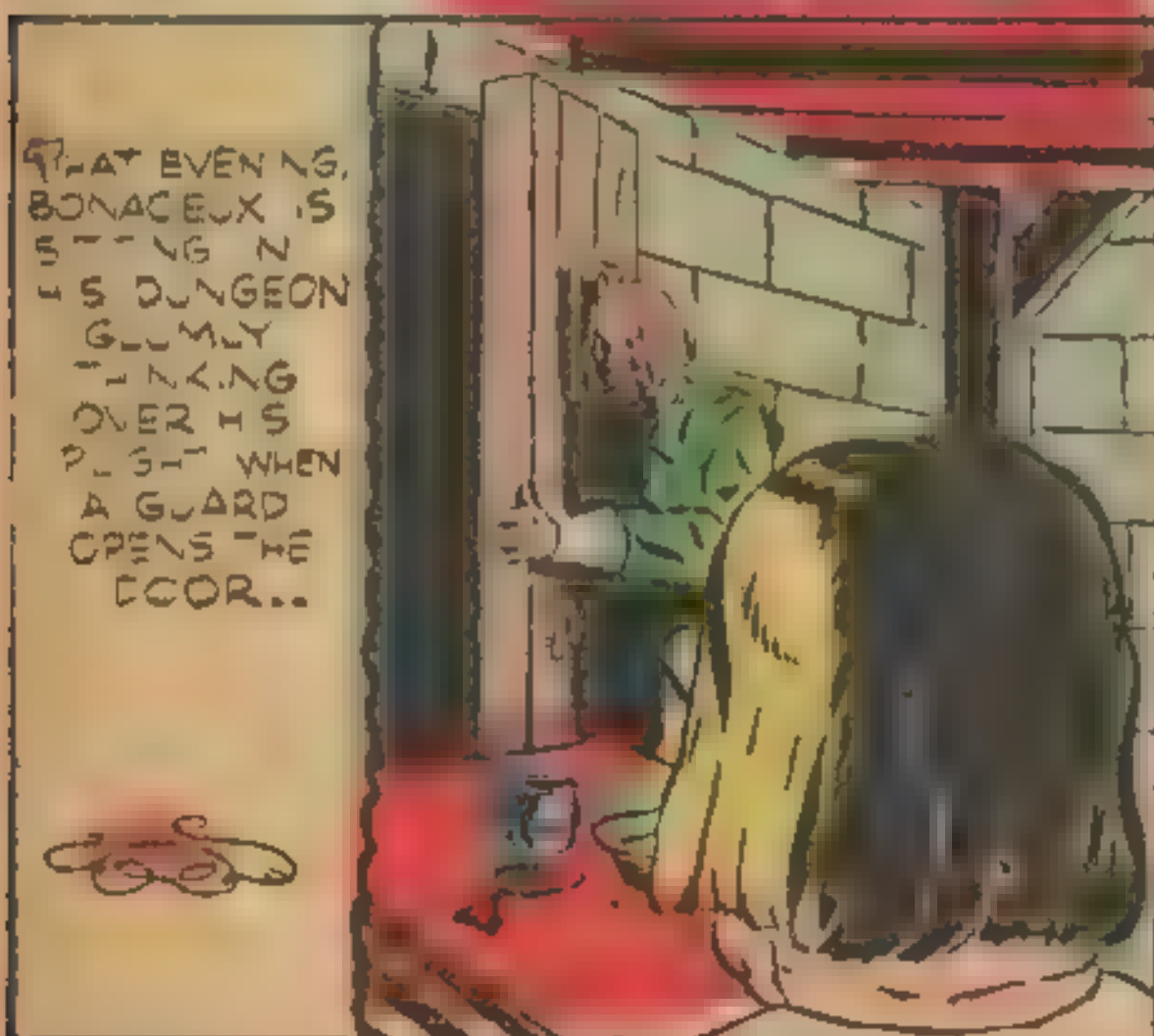
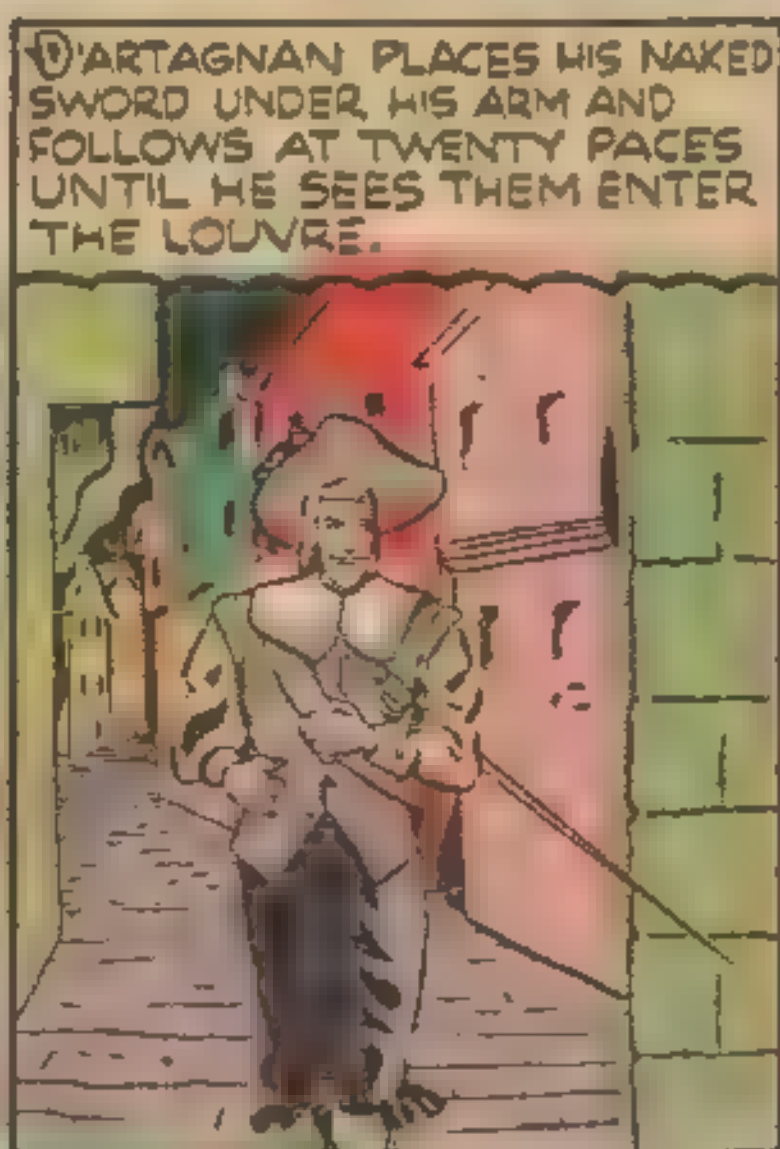
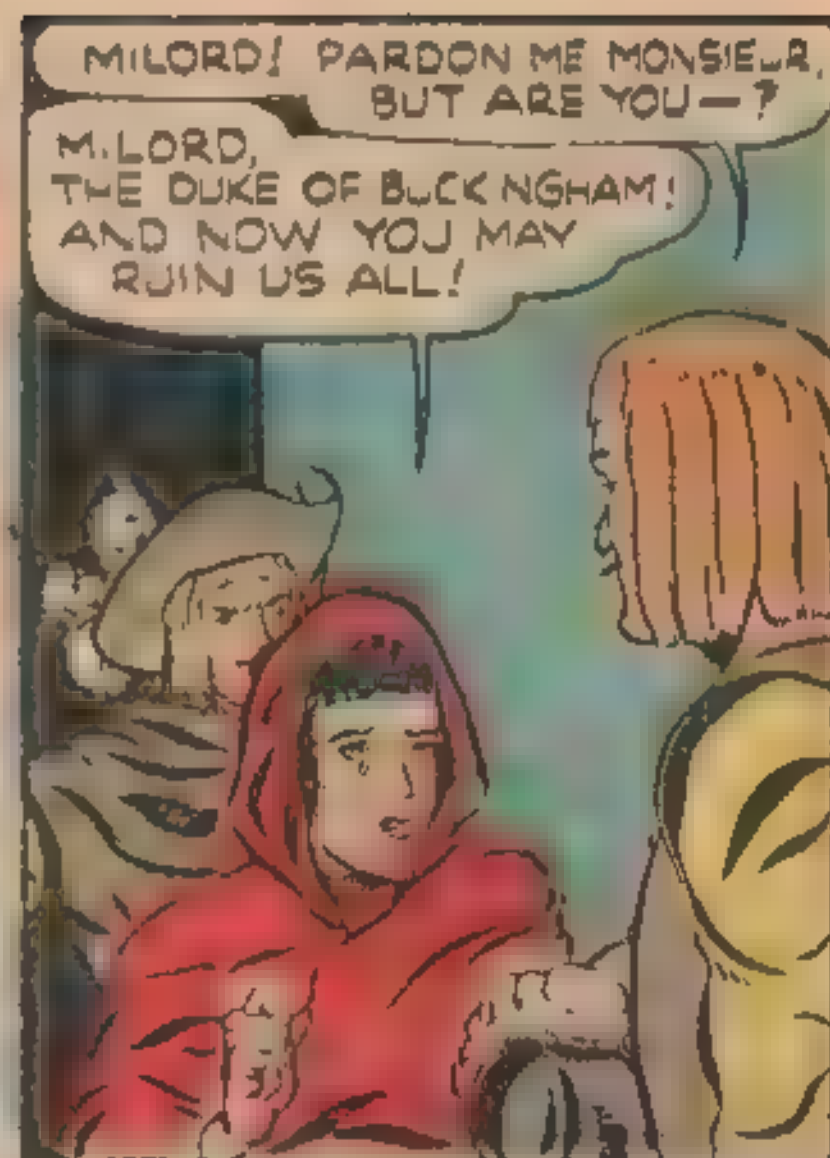


AH! DOUBLY BETRAYED! BY MY FRIEND AND HER WHOM I SAVED!

RESOLVED TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY, D'ARTAGNAN STANDS SQUARELY ATTHWART HER PATH!



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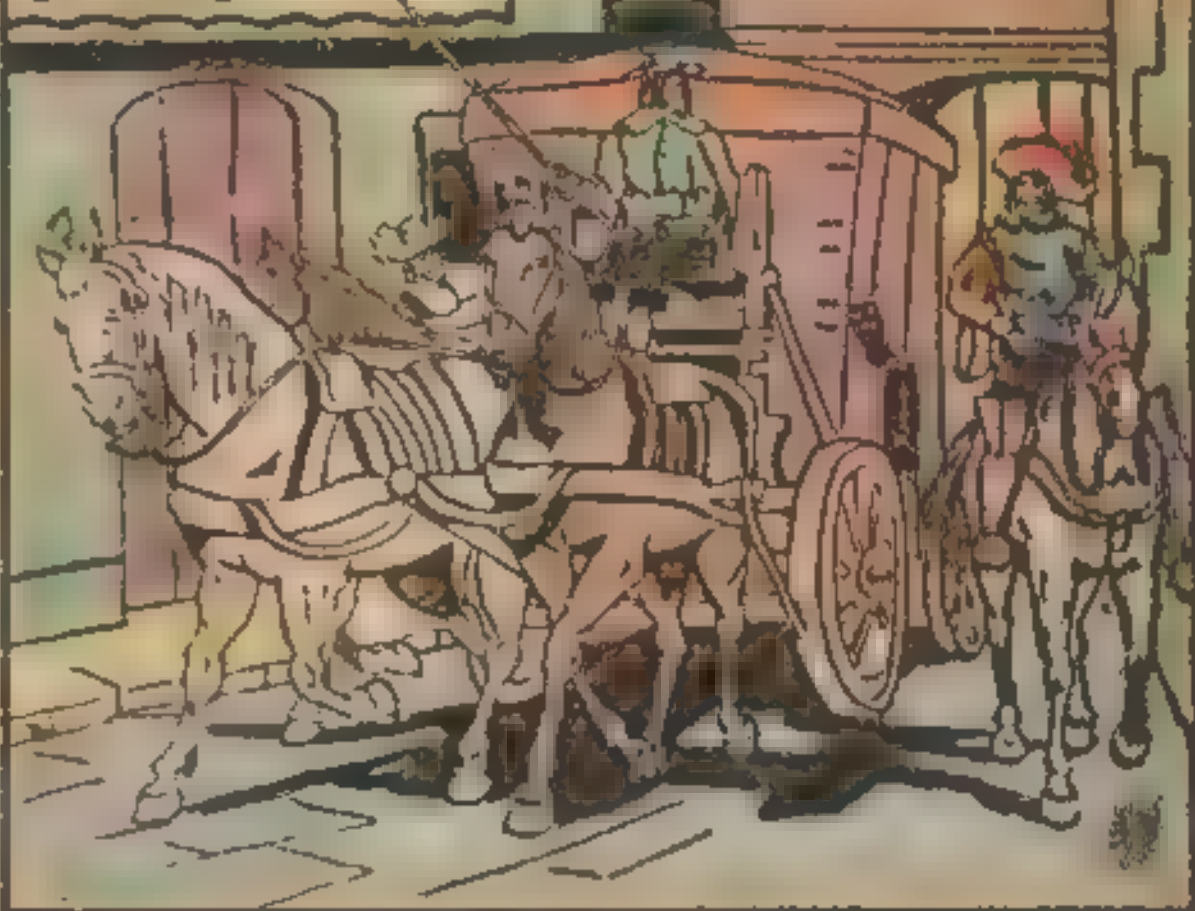
AH, MY GOD!
NOW INDEED
I AM LOST!



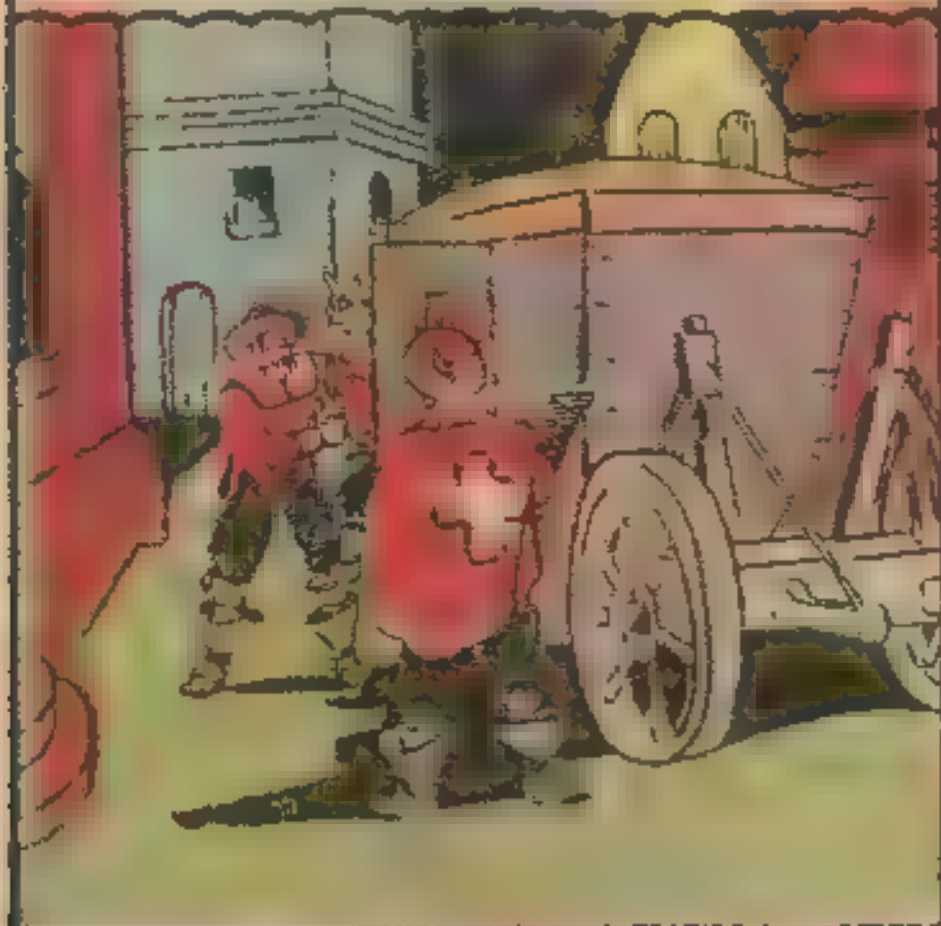
MASTER BONACEUX IS PUT
IN A CLOSED CARRIAGE
SURROUNDED BY FOUR GUARDS
ON HORSEBACK.



THE CARRIAGE IS PUT IN MOTION AS SLOWLY AS
A FUNERAL CAR, AND GOES THROUGH THE STREETS
OF PARIS.



FINALLY THE CARRIAGE STOPS BE-
FORE A HOUSE. THE DOOR IS OPENED
AND TWO GUARDS TAKE OUT THE
TERRIFIED BONACEUX.



THE GUARDS TAKE
HIM UP A FLIGHT OF
STAIRS AND DEPOSIT
HIM IN THE ANTE-
CHAMBER.



AN OFFICER OPENS THE DOOR.

IS YOUR NAME
BONACEUX?

YES, MONSIEUR;
AT YOUR
SERVICE.

COME IN.



IN THE ROOM
IS A MAN WHO,
EXCEPT FOR A
SWORD HAS
ALL THE AP-
PEARANCE OF
A SOLDIER.
HE IS ARMAND
JEAN DUPLESSIS,
CARDINAL DE
RICHELIEU,
ONE OF THE MOST
EXTRAORDINARY
MEN WHO EVER
EXISTED!

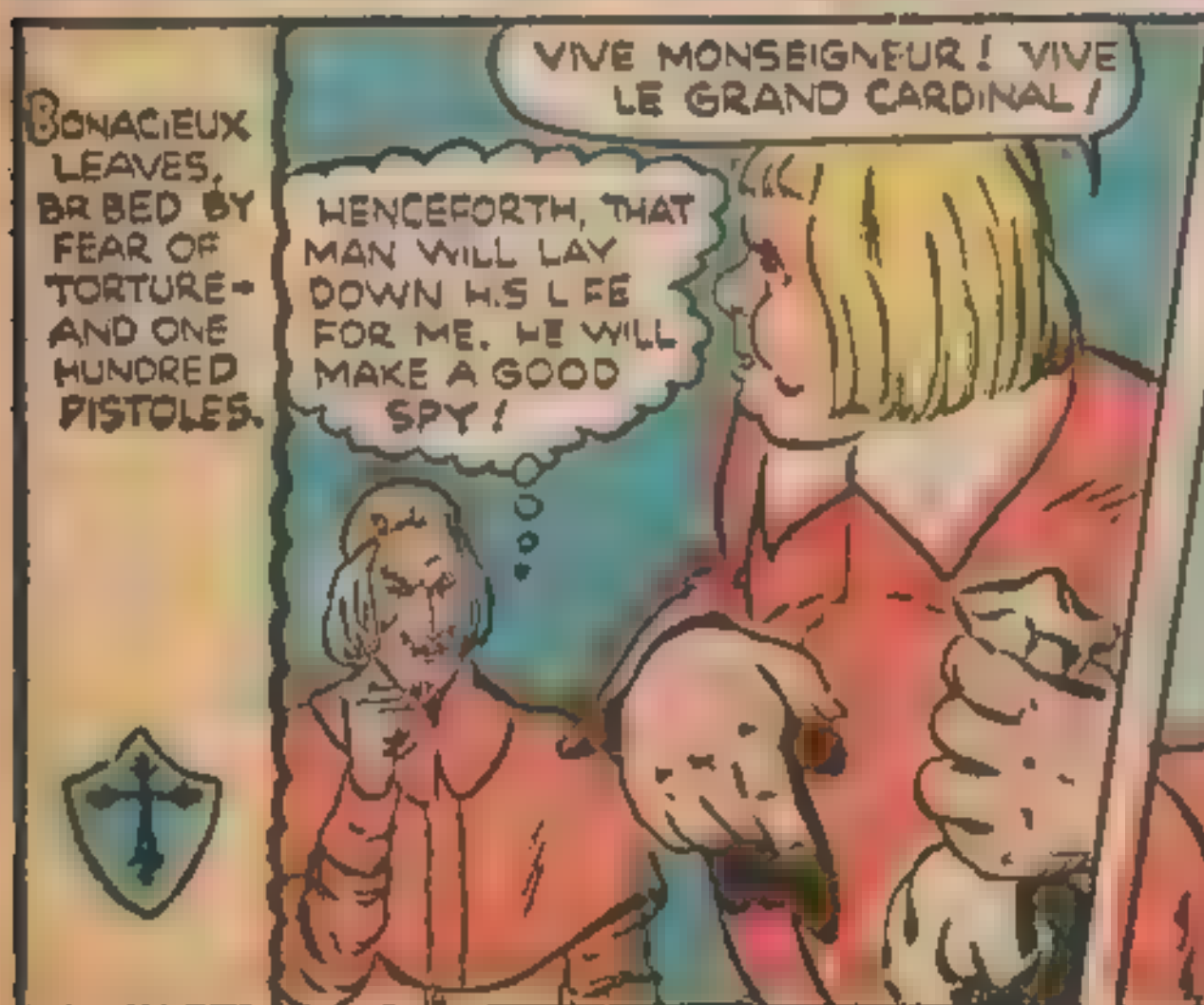
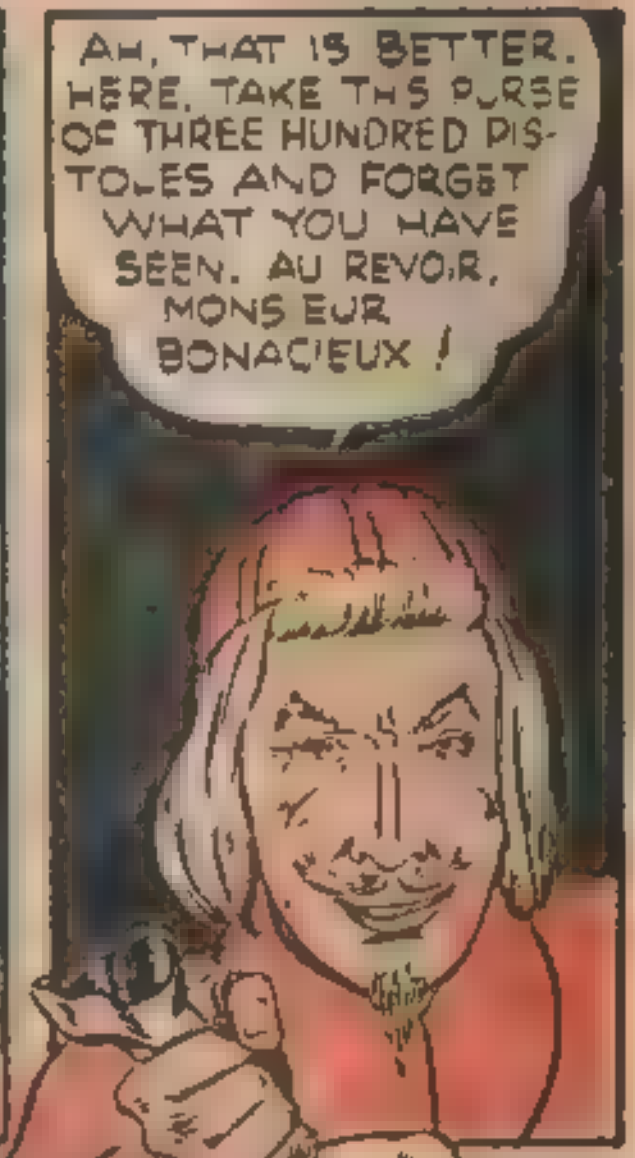
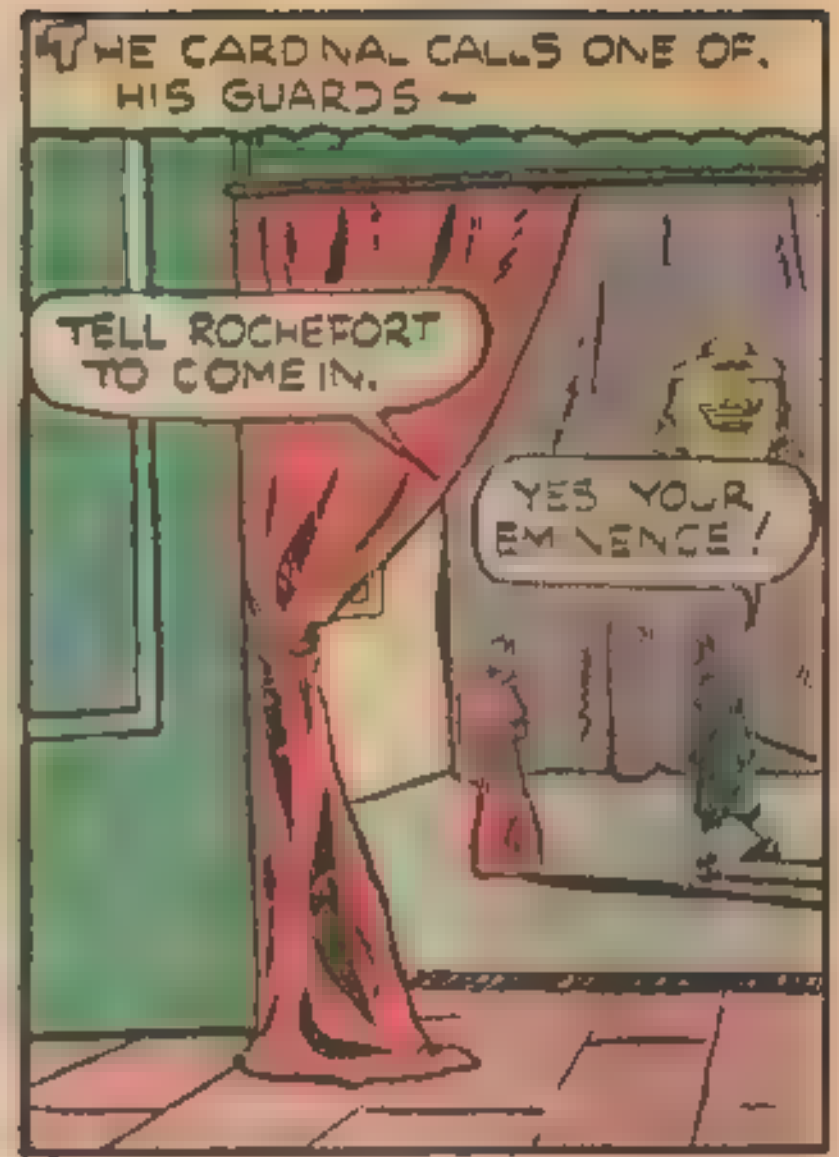


IS THAT BONACEUX?

YES,
MONSIEUR.

GIVE ME THE PAPERS
FROM THE BASTILLE.

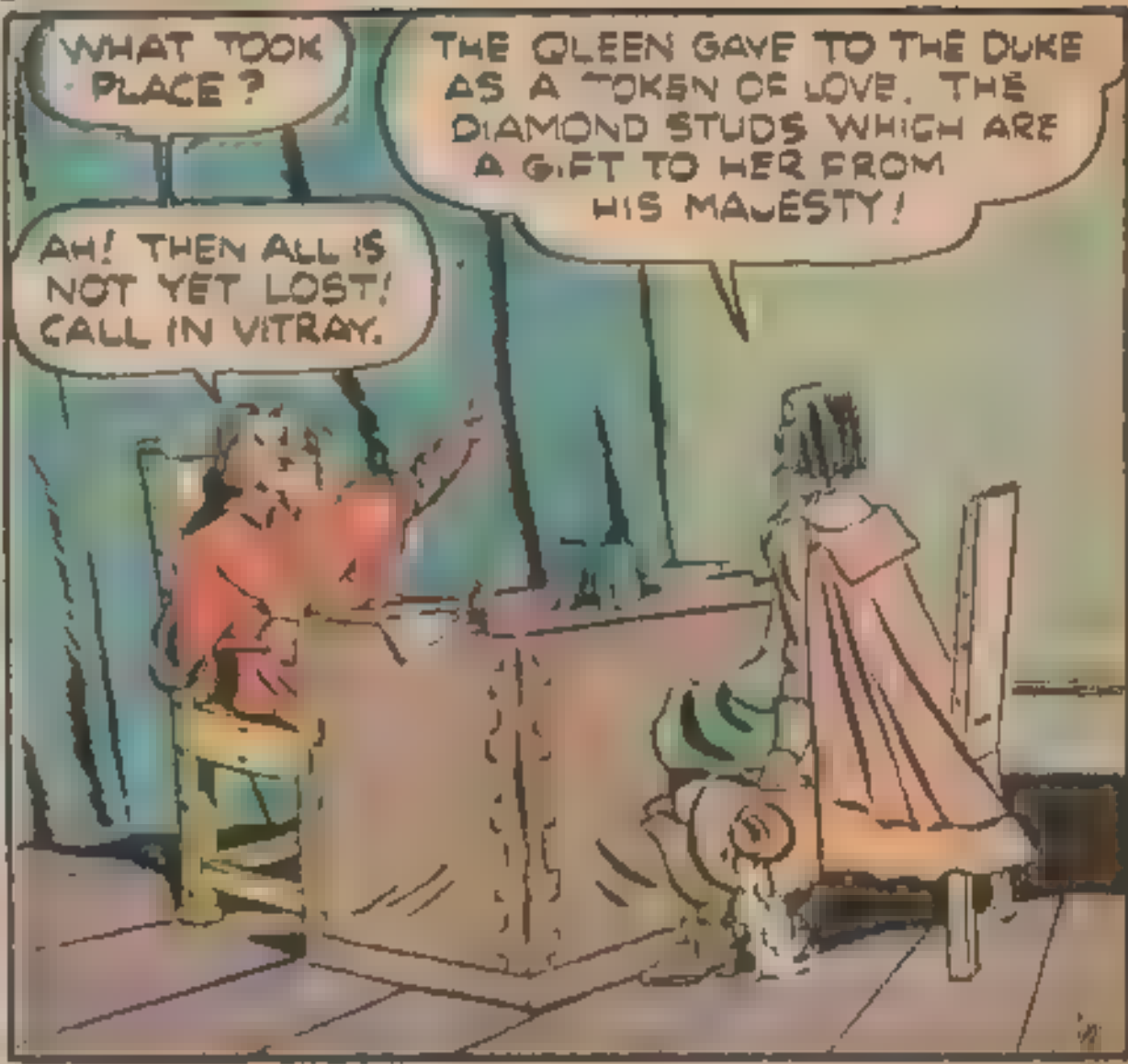






WHO TOLD YOU OF - ?

MADAME LANNOY, ONE OF THE QUEEN'S LADIES, WHO IS DEVOTED TO YOUR EMINENCE, AS YOU KNOW.



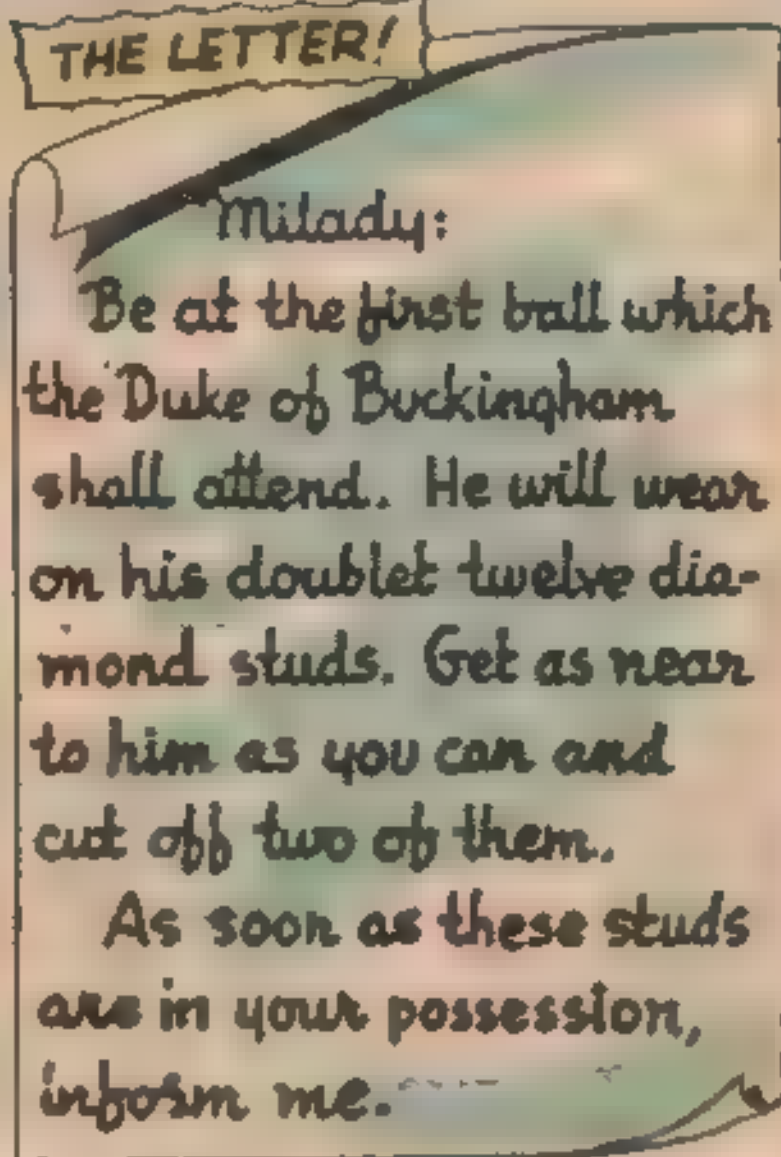
WHAT TOOK PLACE ?

AH! THEN ALL IS NOT YET LOST! CALL IN VITRAY.

THE QUEEN GAVE TO THE DUKE AS A TOKEN OF LOVE, THE DIAMOND STUDS WHICH ARE A GIFT TO HER FROM HIS MAJESTY!



VITRAY YOU WILL GO WITH ALL SPEED TO LONDON AND DELIVER TO MILADY THE LETTER WHICH I SHALL GIVE YOU.



THE LETTER!

Milady:

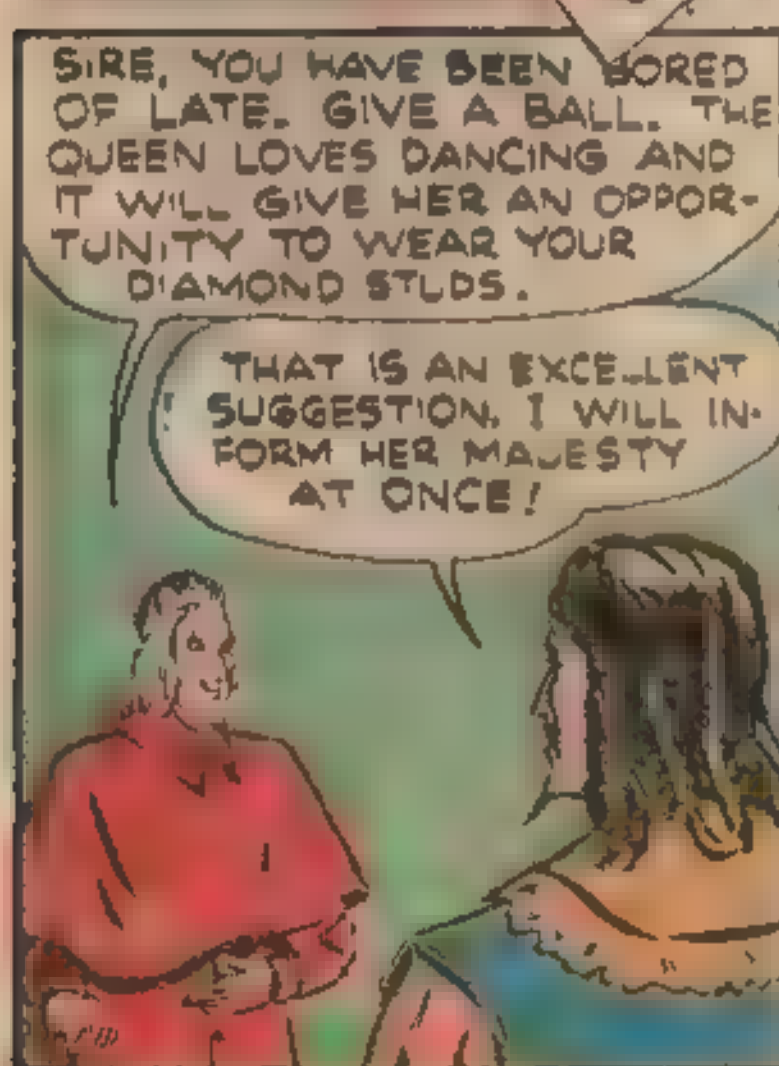
Be at the first ball which the Duke of Buckingham shall attend. He will wear on his doublet twelve diamond studs. Get as near to him as you can and cut off two of them.

As soon as these studs are in your possession, inform me.



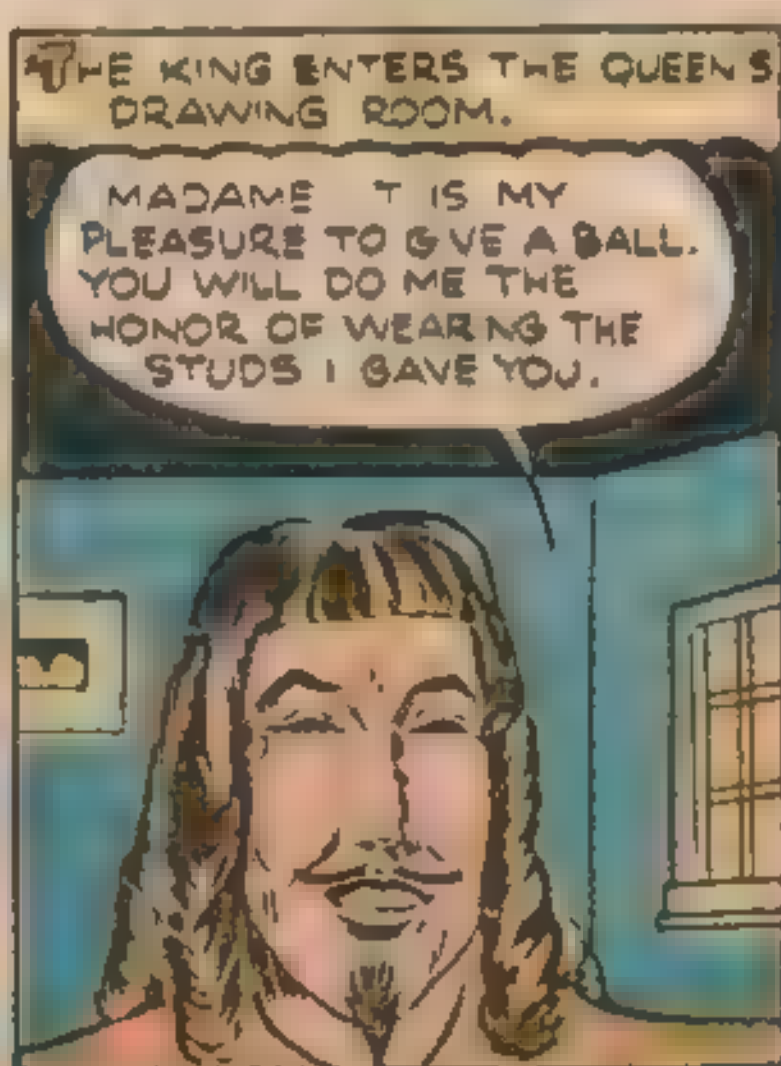
THREE DAYS LATER THE CARDINAL RECEIVES A LETTER FROM MILADY STATING THAT SHE HAS THE STUDS AND WILL BE IN PARIS IN FIVE DAYS.

AH! NOW I MUST PERSUADE THE KING TO GIVE A FETE. I WILL SEE HIM AT ONCE!



SIRE, YOU HAVE BEEN BORED OF LATE. GIVE A BALL. THE QUEEN LOVES DANCING AND IT WILL GIVE HER AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEAR YOUR DIAMOND STUDS.

THAT IS AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION. I WILL INFORM HER MAJESTY AT ONCE!



THE KING ENTERS THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM.

MADAME IT IS MY PLEASURE TO GIVE A BALL. YOU WILL DO ME THE HONOR OF WEARING THE STUDS I GAVE YOU.



IF IT IS YOUR WISH, SIRE, I WILL APPEAR AT THE BALL.

AND WITH THOSE STUDS?

YES WITH THE STUDS.

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AFTER THE KING LEAVES THE QUEEN LEANS FOR SUPPORT ON THE TABLE.

I AM LOST!
MY GOD! MY GOD!



MADAME BONACEUX, WHO HAS HEARD THE CONVERSATION FROM THE OTHER ROOM, ENTERS.

CAN I BE OF SERVICE TO YOUR MAJESTY?



OH, MADAME BONACEUX, I AM BETRAYED! I MUST RETRIEVE THOSE STUDS!

I BELIEVE I HAVE A WAY OF EXTRACTING YOUR MAJESTY FROM HER TROUBLE!



I MUST PLACE MY LIFE, MY HONOR, MY REPUTATION IN YOUR HANDS. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

MY HUSBAND WILL DO ANYTHING I ASK. HE WILL DELIVER YOUR LETTER TO LONDON!



THE QUEEN WRITES TWO LINES, SEALS THE LETTER WITH HER PRIVATE SEAL AND GIVES IT TO MADAME BONACEUX.

HURRY! WE HAVE ONLY TWELVE DAYS BEFORE THE BALL!



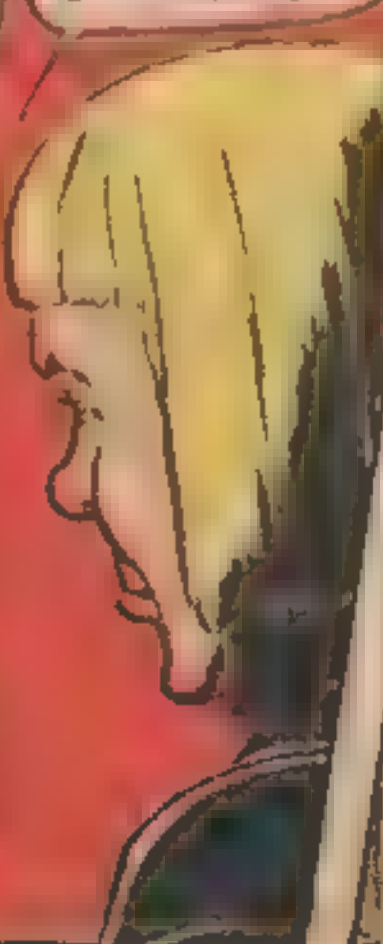
WHILE MADAME BONACEUX RETURNS TO HER HOME UNAWARE THAT IN HER ABSENCE HER HUSBAND HAS BECOME A CARDINAL SPY.



YOU MUST SET OUT TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY! I WILL GIVE YOU A PAPER WHICH YOU MUST NOT PART WITH, AND WHICH YOU WILL DELIVER INTO THE PROPER HANDS!



BUT WHY AM I TO GO?

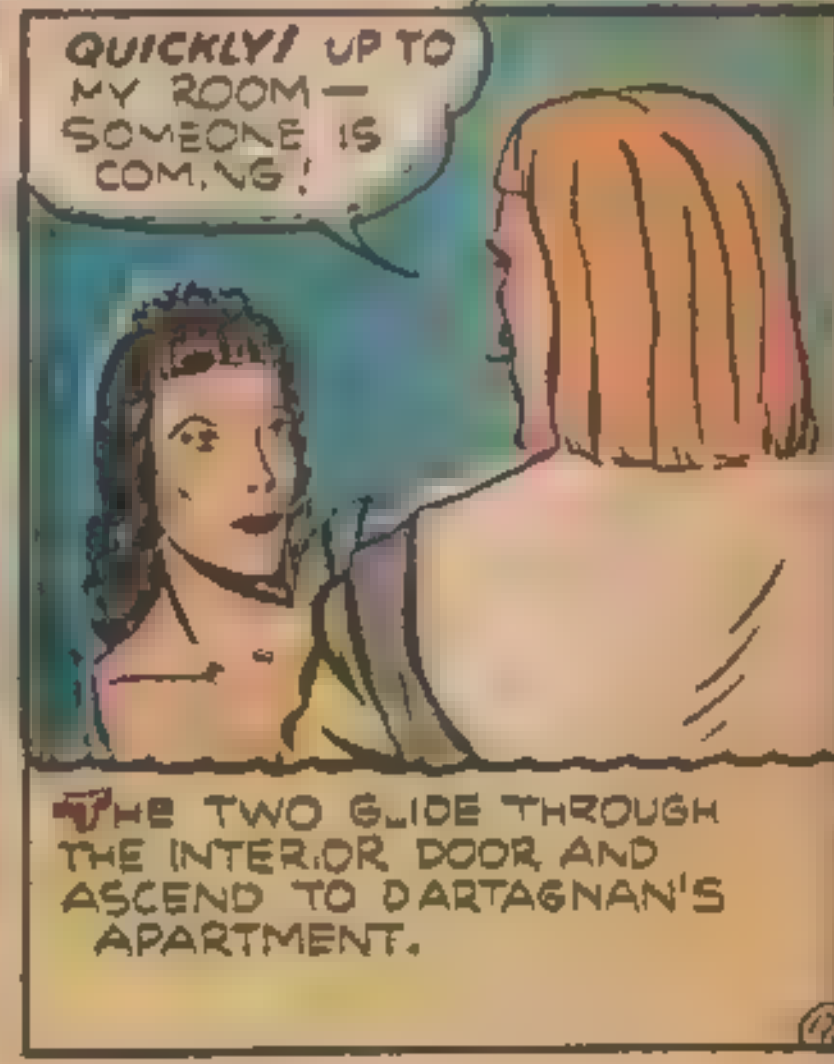
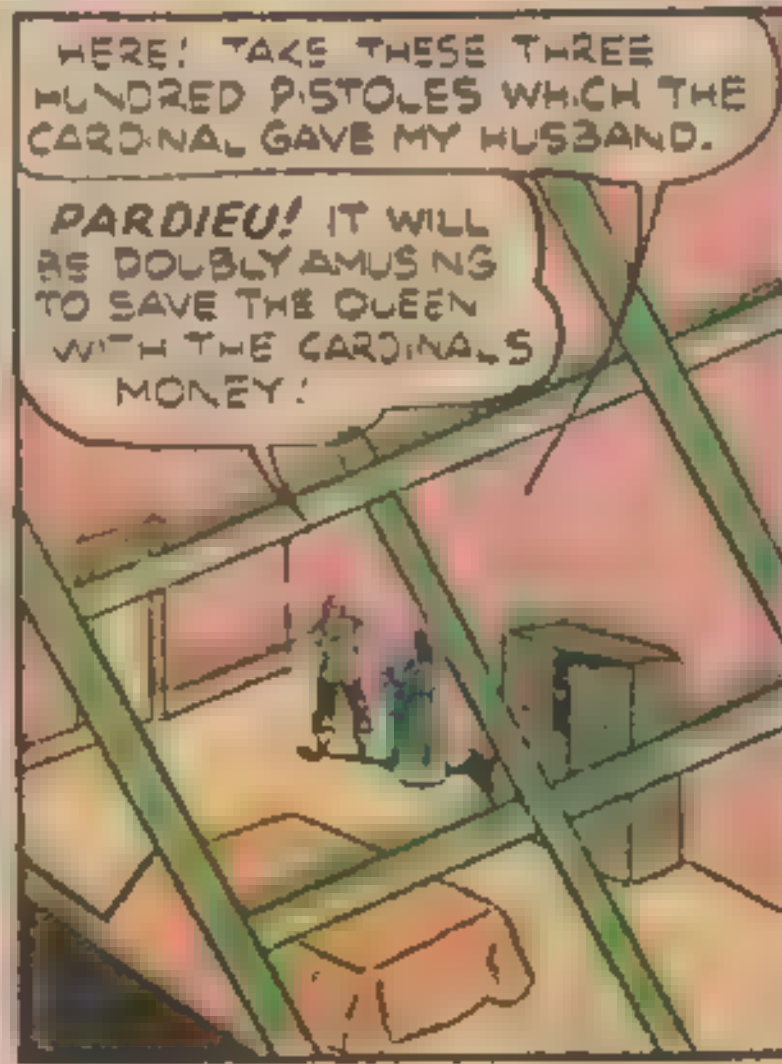
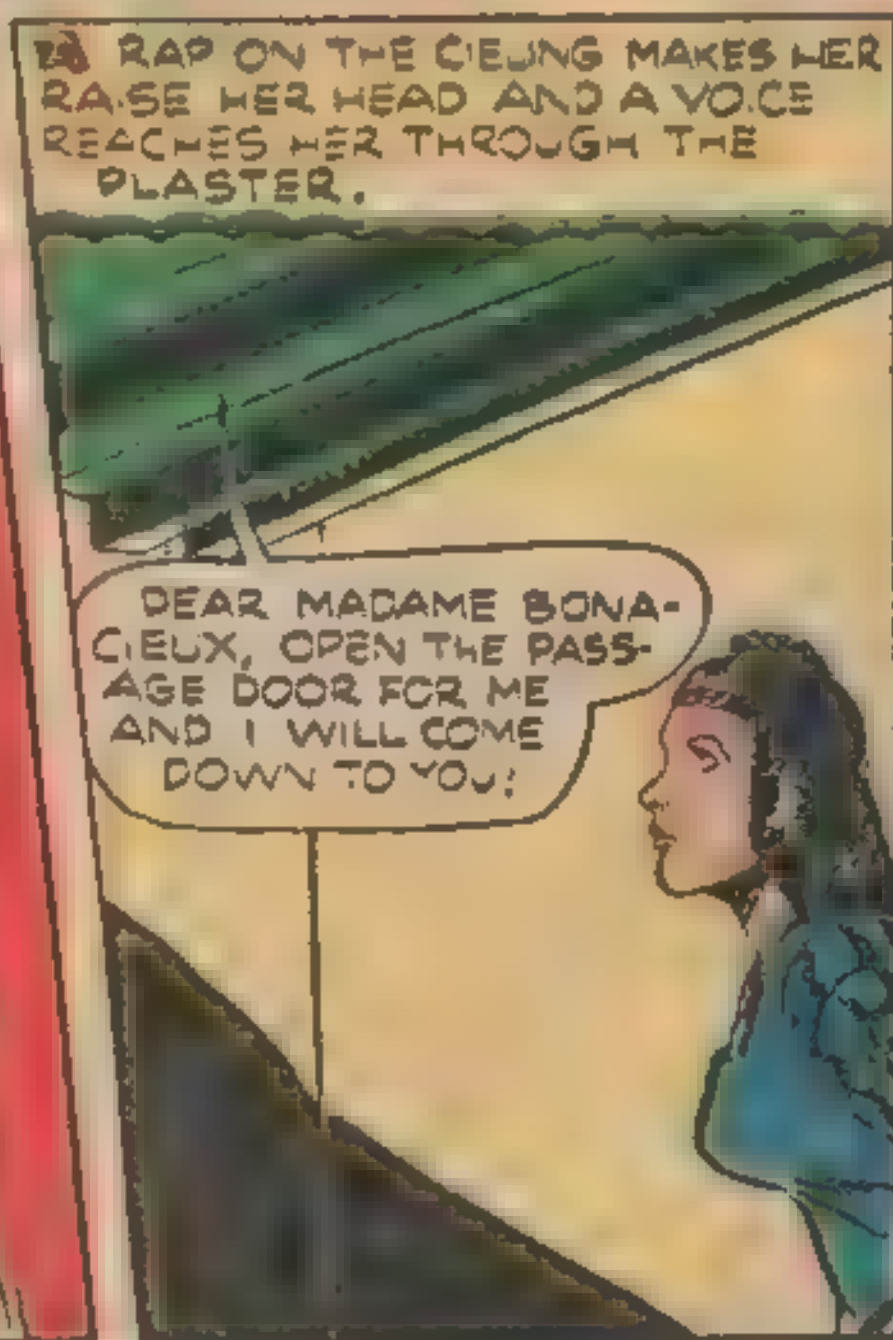
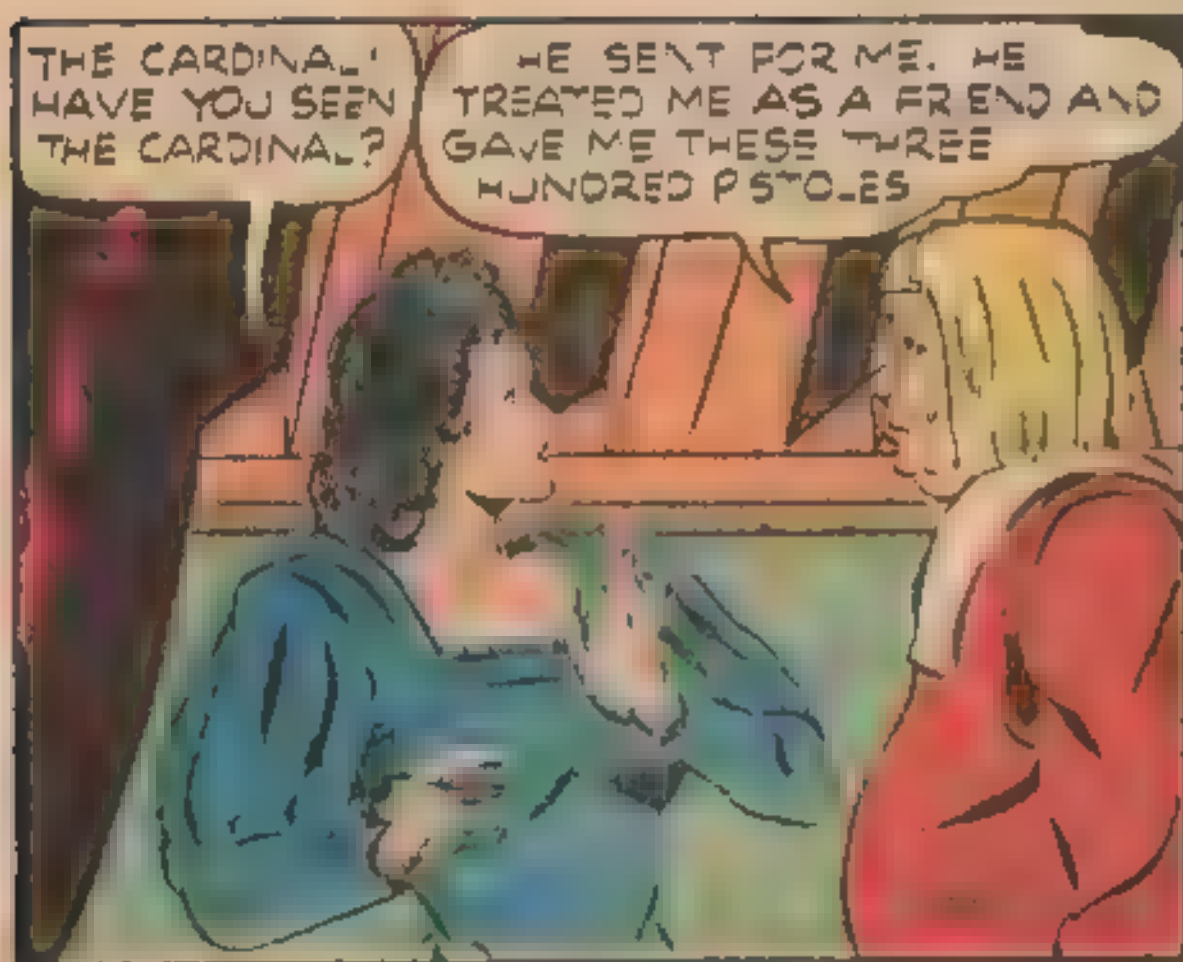


AN ILLUSTRIOUS PERSON SENDS YOU. AN ILLUSTRIOUS PERSON AWAITS YOU. THE RECOMPENSE IS GREAT - THAT IS ALL I PROMISE YOU!

AH! THE CARDINAL WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS!

INTRIGUES! NOTHING BUT INTRIGUES! MONSIEUR LE CARDINAL HAS ENLIGHTENED ME ON THAT MATTER.





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LOCKED IN THE ROOM, MADAME BONACEUX AND D'ARTAGNAN LOOK OUT THROUGH A SLIT IN THE SHUTTER.

IT IS MY HUSBAND AND ROCHEFORT!

AHA! IT IS MY MAN OF MEUNG!

THEY ARE ENTERING THE APARTMENT. WE SHALL LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION THROUGH THIS HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

THEN THE NEWS I HAVE BROUGHT YOU IS VALUABLE?

YES, MY DEAR BONACEUX. DID SHE MENTION ANY NAMES?

NO. SHE ONLY TOLD ME SHE WISHED ME TO GO TO LONDON.

THEN AGREE TO ACCEPT THE MISSION AND GET POSSESSION OF THE LETTER. WHEN YOU DO, MEET ME AT MY APARTMENT.

THEY HAVE GONE NOW YOU MUST GO. COURAGE MY FRIEND, AND, ABOVE ALL, PRUDENCE!

D'ARTAGNAN GOES TO ATHOS APARTMENT, WHERE LUCKILY HE FINDS THE THREE MUSKETEERS.

GENTLEMEN, WE ARE GOING TO LONDON ON A MISSION OF MOST IMPORTANCE!

TO LONDON! AND WHAT THE DEVIL ARE WE GOING TO DO IN LONDON?

I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU. YOU MUST TRUST ME!

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, DARTAGNAN, I AM READY TO FOLLOW YOU

AND I ALSO!

AND I!

NOW LET US FIRST LAY DOWN THE PLAN OF THE CAMPAIGN. WHERE DO WE GO FIRST?

TO CALAS; THAT IS THE MOST DIRECT LINE TO LONDON. THE CARDINAL KNOWS OF MY MISSION AND WILL TRY TO PREVENT ME FROM GETTING THERE.

I AM THE BEARER OF A LETTER. IF I SHOULD BE KILLED, ONE OF YOU MUST TAKE IT AND PURSUE THE ROUTE; IF HE BE KILLED, IT WILL BE ANOTHER'S TURN: THE LETTER MUST REACH LONDON!

AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, THE FOUR ADVENTURERS AND THEIR LACKEYS START ON THEIR PERILOUS JOURNEY.



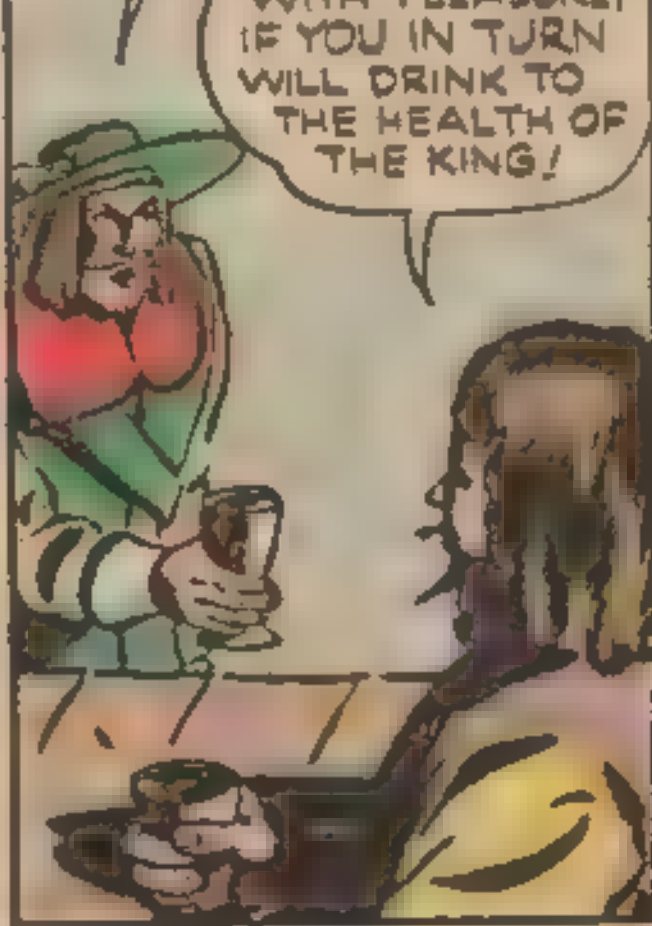
ALL GOES WELL UNTIL THEY REACH CHANTILLY. AS THEY ARE FINISHING BREAKFAST, A MAN ENTERS THE INN.

HERE'S TO THE HEALTH OF THE CARDINAL. DRINK WITH ME!

WITH PLEASURE, IF YOU IN TURN WILL DRINK TO THE HEALTH OF THE KING!

I ACKNOWLEDGE NO OTHER KING THAN HIS EMNENCE!

YOU ARE DRUNK!

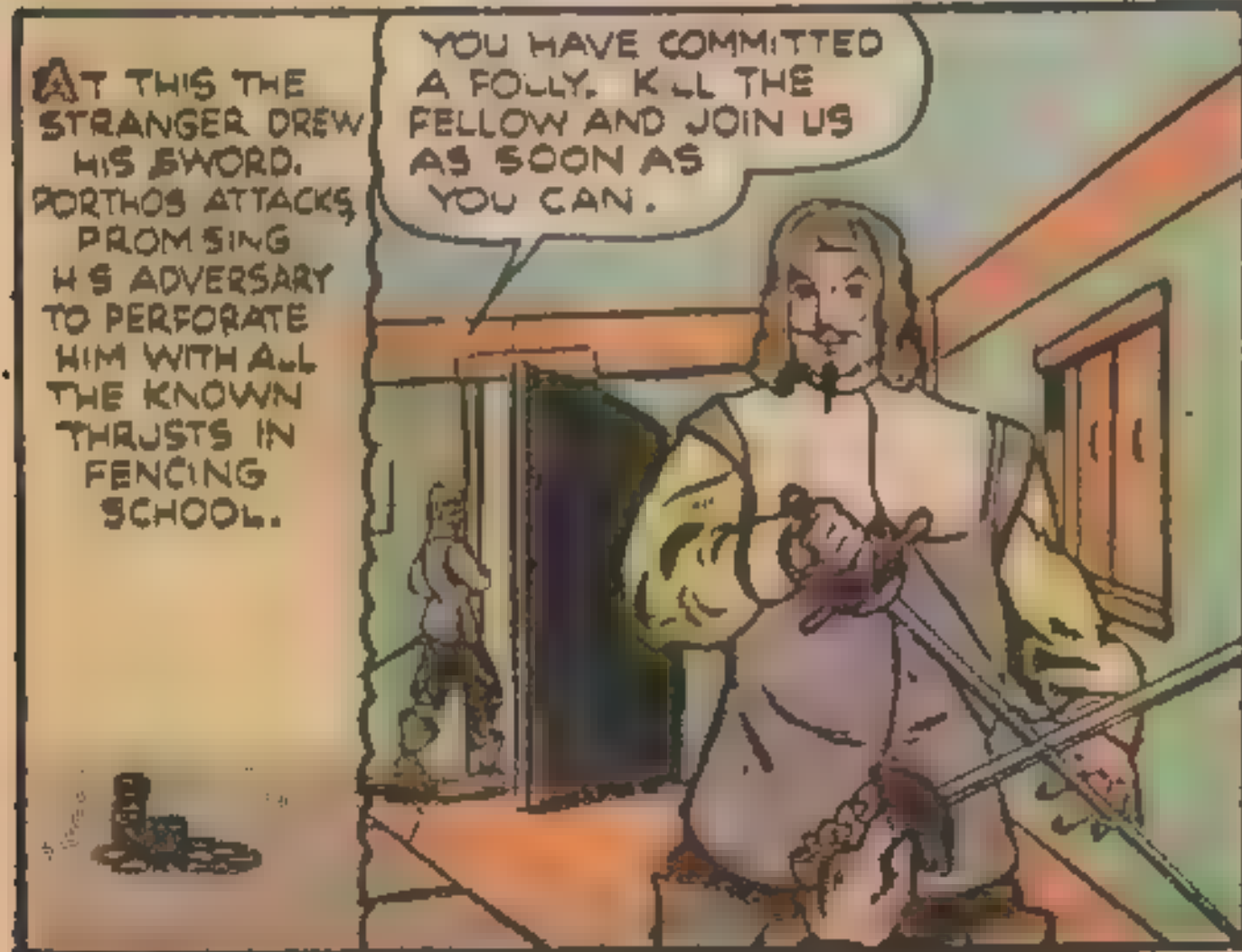


AT THIS THE STRANGER DREW HIS SWORD. PORTHOS ATTACKS, PROMISING HIS ADVERSARY TO PERFORATE HIM WITH ALL THE KNOWN THRUSTS IN FENCING SCHOOL.

YOU HAVE COMMITTED A FOLLY. KILL THE FELLOW AND JOIN US AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

THE OTHERS MOUNT THEIR HORSES AND RIDE OFF. AFTER AN HOUR'S RIDE, PORTHOS HAD NOT COME.

THERE GOES ONE!



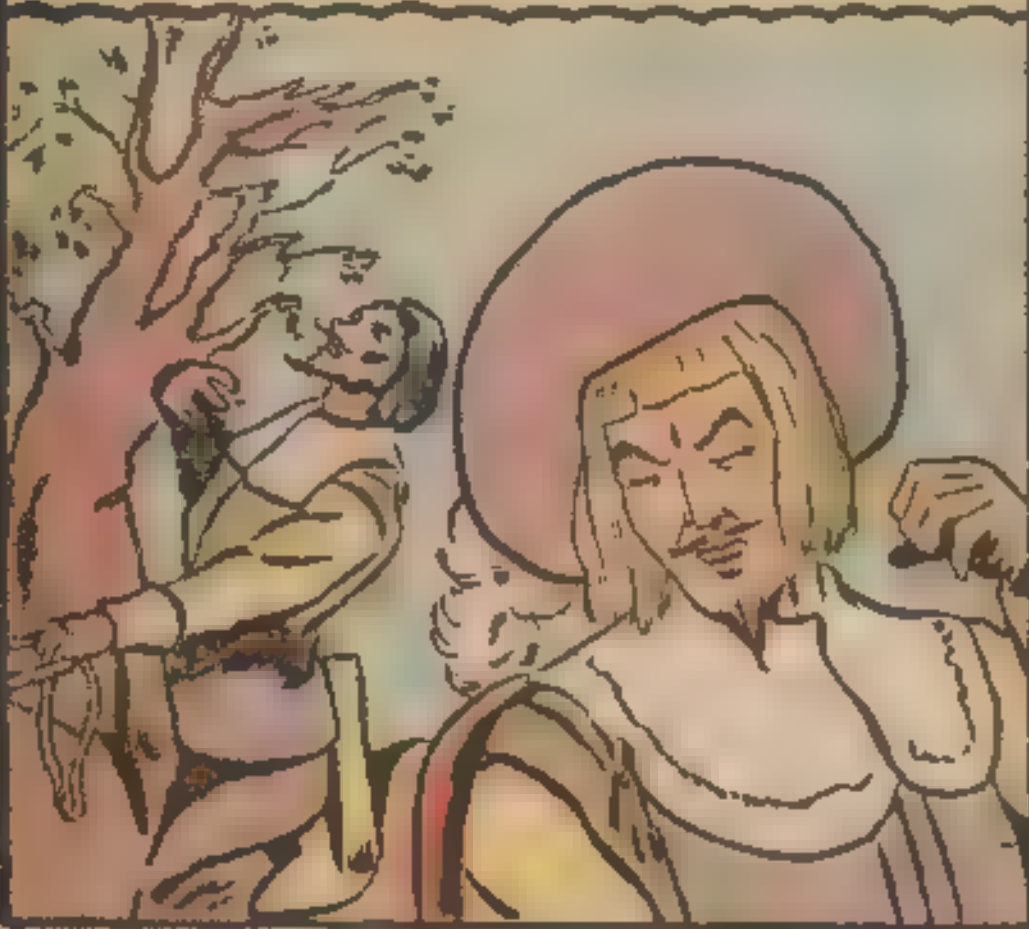
IN A LEAGUE BEYOND BEAUVAIS, THEY COME UPON EIGHT LABORERS WORKING ON THE ROAD.



AS THE TRAVELERS DRAW ABREAST THE WORKERS LEAP INTO A DITCH, SEIZE CONCEALED MUSKETS AND FIRE ON THE PARTY. THE MUSKETEERS SPUR THEIR HORSES AND CHARGE THROUGH.



MOSQUETON, PORTHOS' LACKEY, IS SHOT FROM HIS HORSE. ARAMIS RECEIVES A BALL THROUGH THE SHOULDER, BUT CONTINUES ON--



AT GREVECOLER, ARAMIS STAYS TWO WEEKS TO PROCEED FURTHER. THEY LEAVE HIM IN THE CARE OF BAZIN, HIS LACKEY, AND SET FORWARD.

MORBLEU! REDUCED TO TWO MASTERS AND THEIR LACKEYS!



THEY SPEND THE NIGHT AT AN INN. IN THE MORNING THEY PREPARE TO LEAVE.

ATHOS, YOU PAY THE HOST OUR RECKONING; PLANCHET AND I WILL GET THE HORSES.



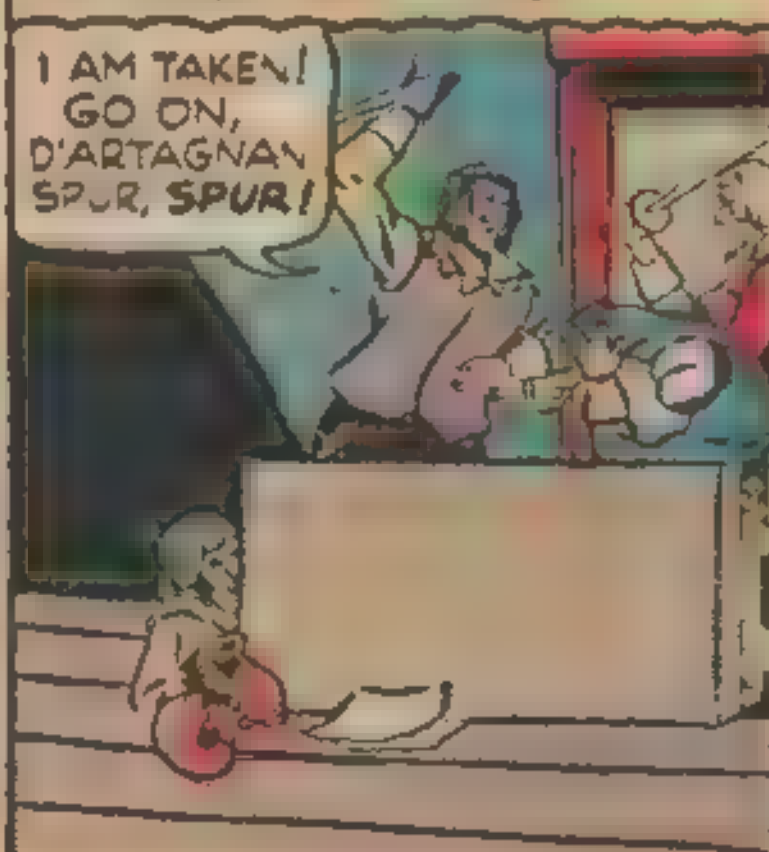
THIS MONEY'S BAD! I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED AS COINERS!

YOU SCOUNDREL! I'LL CUT OFF YOUR EARS!



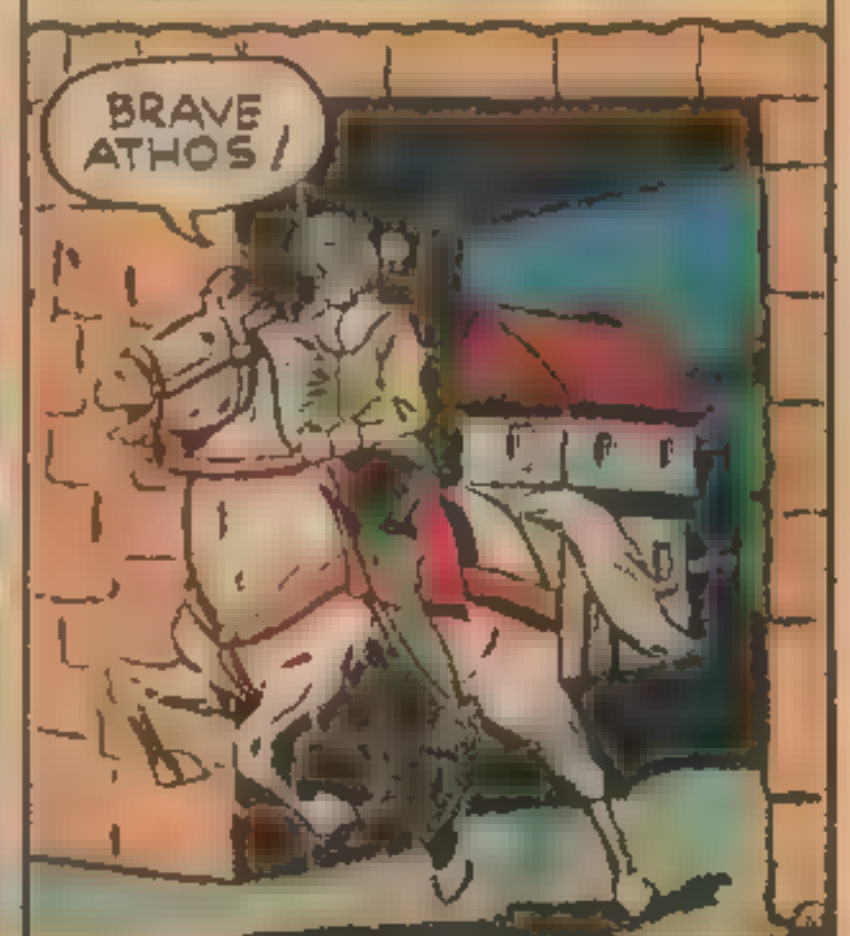
AT THE INNKEEPER'S CRY FOR HELP, FOUR MEN, ARMED TO THE TEETH, ENTER BY A SIDE DOOR AND RUSH UPON ATHOS.

I AM TAKEN! GO ON, D'ARTAGNAN SPUR, SPUR!



ARTAGNAN LEAPS ON HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF--

BRAVE ATHOS!



CLASSICS Illustrated

D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE PORT OF CALAS. A GENTLEMAN IS TALKING TO THE CAPTAIN OF A VESSEL.

NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO CROSS WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM THE CARDINAL!



I HAVE PERMISSION. HERE IT IS!

HAVE YOUR LETTER EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE PORT AND GIVE ME YOUR PREFERENCE.



D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS THE MAN TO THE GOVERNORS HOUSE AND SEES HIM ENTER.



ON THE WAY BACK, D'ARTAGNAN ACCOSTS THE GENTLEMAN.

MONSIEUR, I WANT THAT LETTER OF WHICH YOU ARE THE BEARER, SEEING THAT I HAVE NONE.

YOU ARE JOKING, I PRESUME!



I SELDOM JOKE! ON GUARD!



D'ARTAGNAN QUICKLY DROPS HIS OPPONENT AND TAKES HIS ORDER FOR PASSAGE. IT IS IN THE NAME OF COUNT DE WARDES.

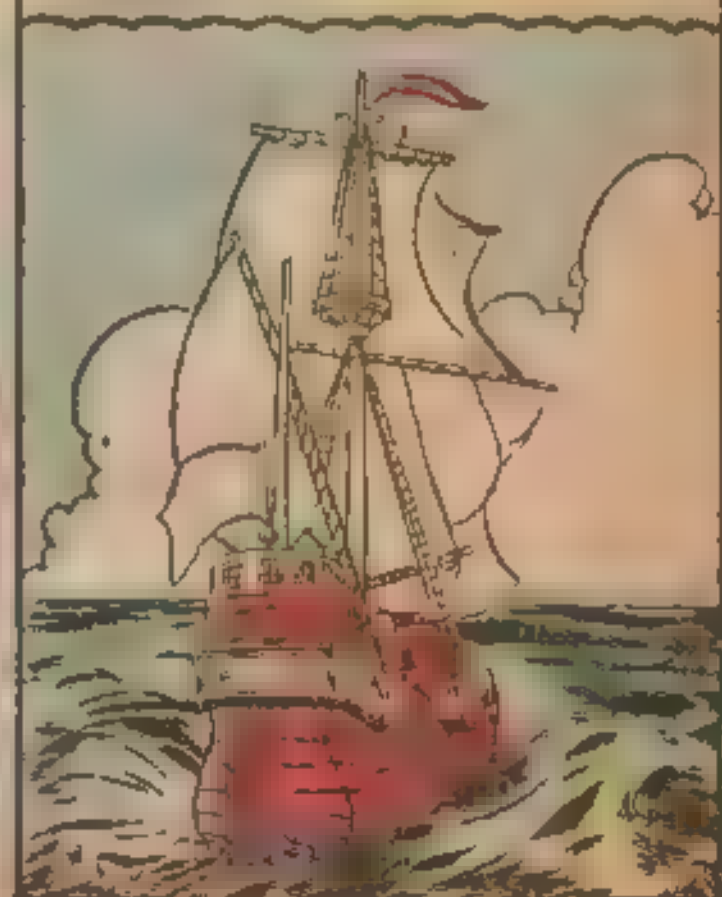


D'ARTAGNAN RUNS TO THE SHIP AND PRESENTS THE LETTER TO THE CAPTAIN.

GOOD! WE SAIL IMMEDIATELY!



UNDER FULL SAIL, THE SHIP CROSSES THE CHANNEL TO ENGLAND.



CLASSICS Illustrated

AT TEN-THIRTY THE NEXT MORNING, D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES IN LONDON.

HERE I AM AT LAST!

D'ARTAGNAN GALLOPS THROUGH THE STREETS OF LONDON ON HIS WAY TO THE HOTEL OF THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

THE DUKE'S VALET, PATRICK, RECEIVES HIM.

WHOM MUST I ANNOUNCE TO MY LORD DUKE?

THE YOUNG MAN WHO, ONE EVENING IN PARIS, SOUGHT A DUEL WITH HIM - OUTSIDE THE LOUVRE.

D'ARTAGNAN IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE DUKE.

HAS ANY MISFORTUNE BEFALL

THE QUEEN?

I BELIEVE NOT. TAKE THIS LETTER.

GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT DO I READ? FOLLOW ME!

THEY GO TO THE DUKE'S PRIVATE CHAMBER. FROM A DESK, THE DUKE TAKES A CASKET CONTAINING THE STUDS.

HERE ARE THE PRECIOUS STUDS THE QUEEN GAVE ME.

MY GOD! ALL IS LOST! TWO OF THE STUDS ARE WANTING! THERE ARE BUT TEN OF THEM!

CAN YOU HAVE LOST THEM, MILORD, OR DO YOU THINK THEY HAVE BEEN STOLEN?

THEY HAVE BEEN STOLEN. WHEN IS THE BALL TO TAKE PLACE?

ON MONDAY NEXT.

STILL FIVE DAYS BEFORE US. PATRICK! CALL MY JEWELER!

YES, MY LORD.

WHEN THE JEWELER ARRIVES, THE DUKE SHOWS HIM THE STUDS.

MASTER O'REILLY, HOW MANY DAYS WOULD IT REQUIRE TO MAKE UP TWO STUDS EXACTLY LIKE THESE?

A WEEK, MY LORD!

I WILL GIVE YOU SIX THOUSAND PISTOLES IF YOU CAN HAVE THEM BY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!

MY LORD, YOU SHALL HAVE THEM.

IN TWO DAYS THE STUDS ARE READY.

HERE ARE THE STUDS. GO TO THE PORT AND ASK FOR THE BRIG "SUND". GIVE THIS LETTER TO THE CAPTAIN. EVERYTHING IS ARRANGED ALONG THE WAY.



WITH NO MISHAPS TO HINDER HIM, D'ARTAGNAN TRAVELS AT TOP SPEED AND ARRIVES IN PARIS THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BALL.



THE KING AND QUEEN ENTER THE BALL-ROOM.

THE CARDINAL DEVOURS WITH HIS EYES THE COSTUME OF THE QUEEN.

SICK WITH RAGE, HE COUNTS THE STUDS - ALL TWELVE ARE WORN BY HER MAJESTY!



CLASSICS Illustrated

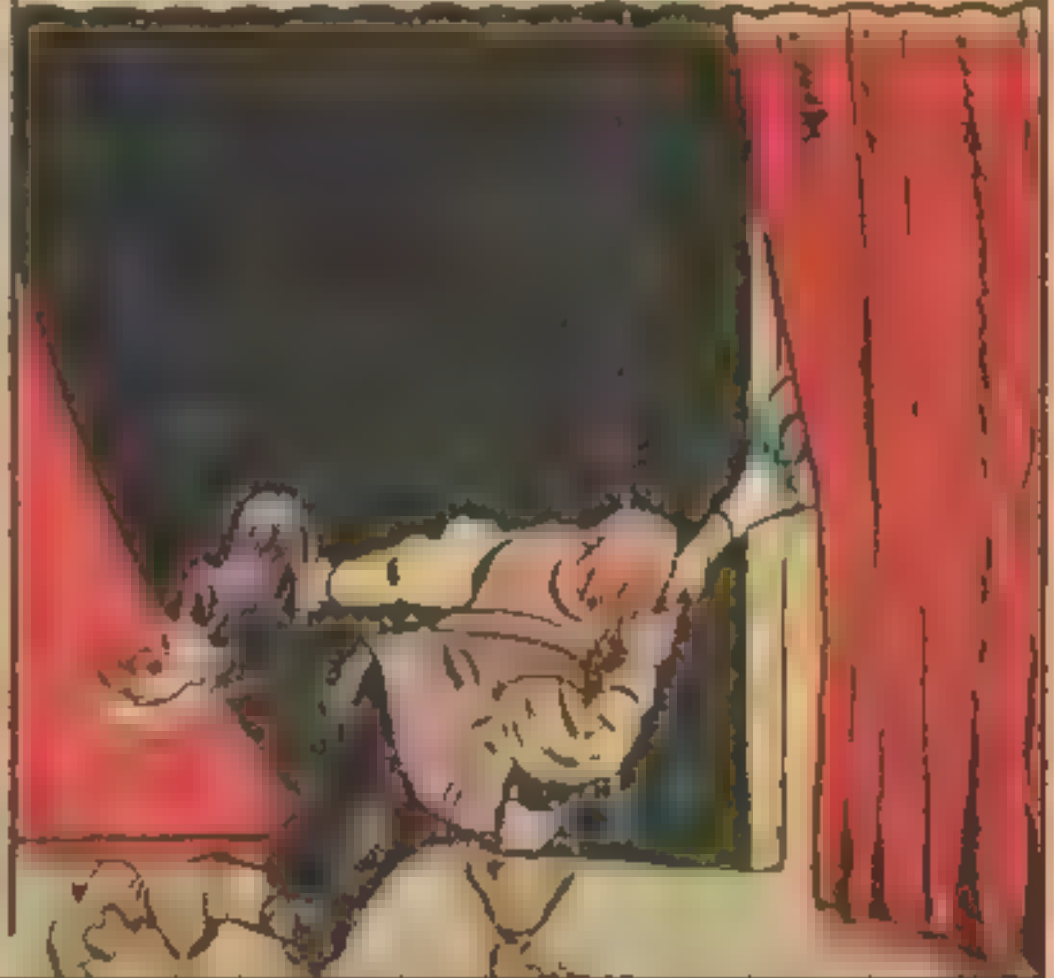
DARTAGNAN, ON DUTY AT THE BALL, IS ABOUT TO RETIRE, WHEN A MASKED WOMAN BECKONS HIM.



DARTAGNAN FOLLOWS HER TO A SMALL DARK ROOM, SHUT OFF BY CURTAINS FROM A LARGER ROOM.



AT LENGTH A HAND AND AN ARM, SURPASSINGLY BEAUTIFUL GLIDES THROUGH THE TAPESTRY. DARTAGNAN KNEELS AND KISSES THE HAND.



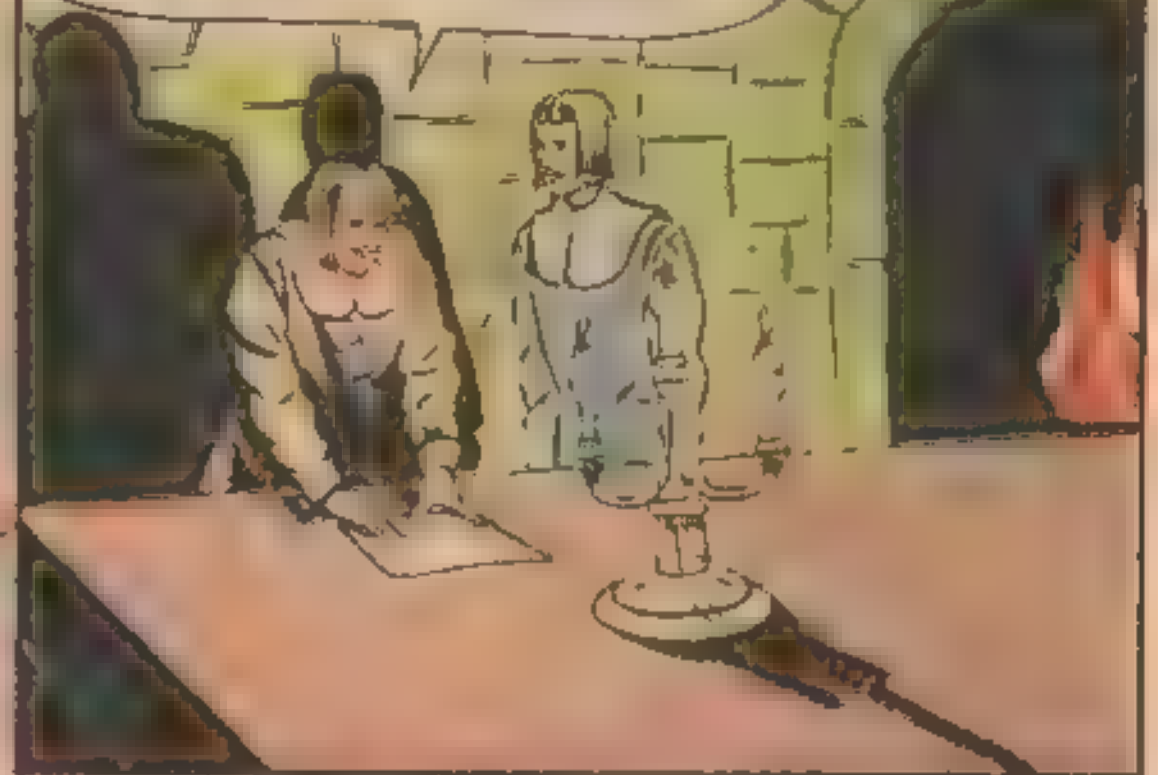
THE HAND IS WITHDRAWN, LEAVING IN HIS A BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING - HIS RECOMPENSE FROM THE QUEEN!



DARTAGNAN LEAVES THE BALL AND GOES HOME.

HERE IS A LETTER FOR YOU, MASTER

AH! A RENDEZVOUS WITH CONSTANCE BONACIEUX IN THE PAVILION OF ST. CLOUD AT TEN O'CLOCK!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING, DARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE PAVILION TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT.



HOURS PASS AND HE BECOMES UNEASY. HE EXAMINES THE GROUND FOR SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE.



HIS WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED! HE PICKS UP A WOMAN'S TORN GLOVE!

NOM DE DIEU!! THE CARDINAL HAS CARRIED HER OFF AGAIN!



CLASSICS Illustrated

D'ARTAGNAN GOES TO DE TREVILLE'S HOTEL AND RELATES ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED.

HUM. ALL THIS SAVORS OF HIS EMINENCE A LEAGUE OFF

BUT WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

NOTHING. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT PRESENT. I WILL SEE THE QUEEN. YOU, MEANWHILE, GO OUT PARS AND LOOK FOR YOUR FRIENDS!

DETERMINED TO FOLLOW DE TREVILLE'S ADVICE, D'ARTAGNAN GOES HOME.

PACK OUR EQUIPMENT, PLANCHET, AND LET US DISCOVER WHAT HAS BECOME OF PORTHOS, ARAMIS AND ATHOS!

THEY SET OUT AND ARRIVE IN CHANTILLY, ALIGHTING AT THE SAME HOTEL THEY STOPPED AT ON THEIR FIRST JOURNEY.

THE HOST GREET'S THEM.

AH! MONSIEUR I BELIEVE THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN YOU!

I WAS HERE TEN DAYS AGO. I WAS CONDUCTING SOME FRIENDS, ONE OF WHOM HAD A DISPUTE WITH A STRANGER.

AH! EXACTLY SO! IS IT NOT M. PORTHOS THAT YOUR LORDSHIP MEANS?

YES. THAT IS HE. I HOPE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM.

HE IS WOUNDED, BUT HE HAS FORBIDDEN ME STRICTLY TO SAY SO

AND WHY SO?

HE IS VERY VAN AND DESPITE HIS BOASTING WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT DOWN BY THE STRANGER.

THAT'S PORTHOS ALL OVER! CAN I SEE HIM?

CERTAINLY. ONLY WARN HIM THAT IT IS YOU.

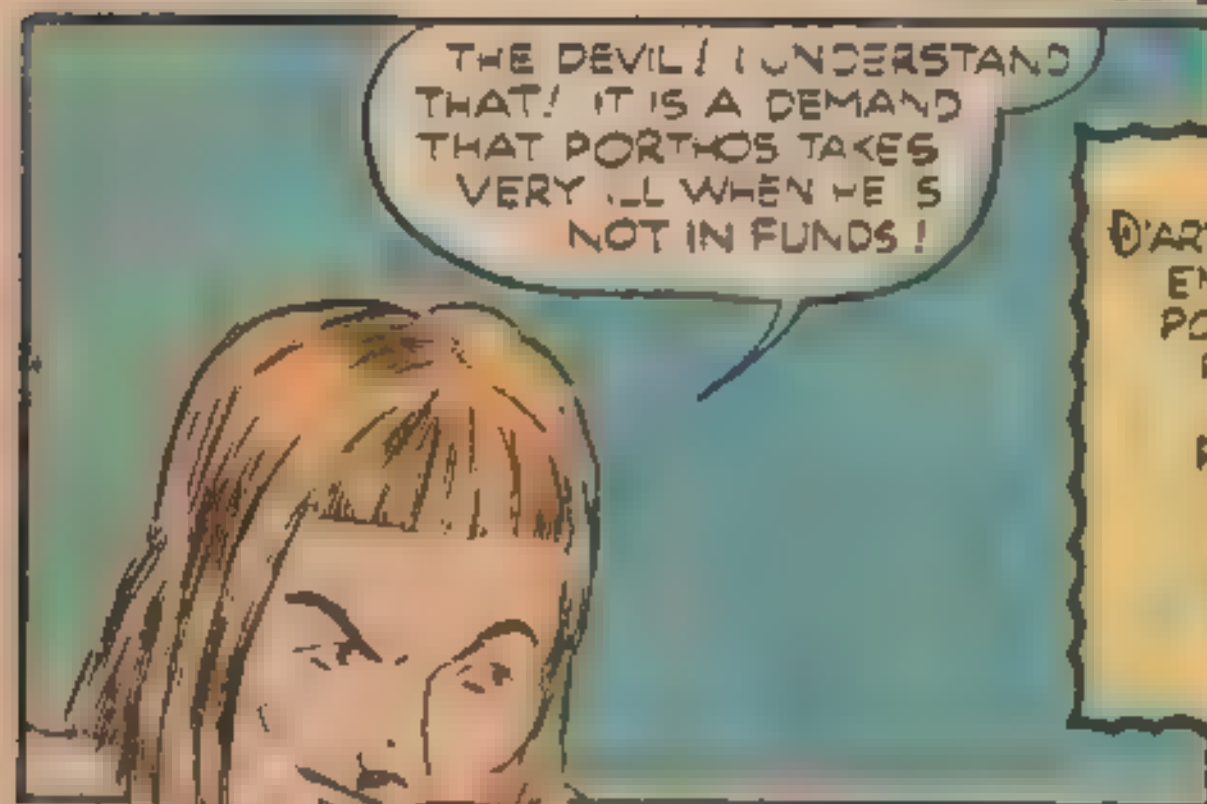
WARN HIM? WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?

M. PORTHOS MAY IMAGINE YOU BELONG TO THE HOTEL, AND BLOW OUT YOUR BRANS!

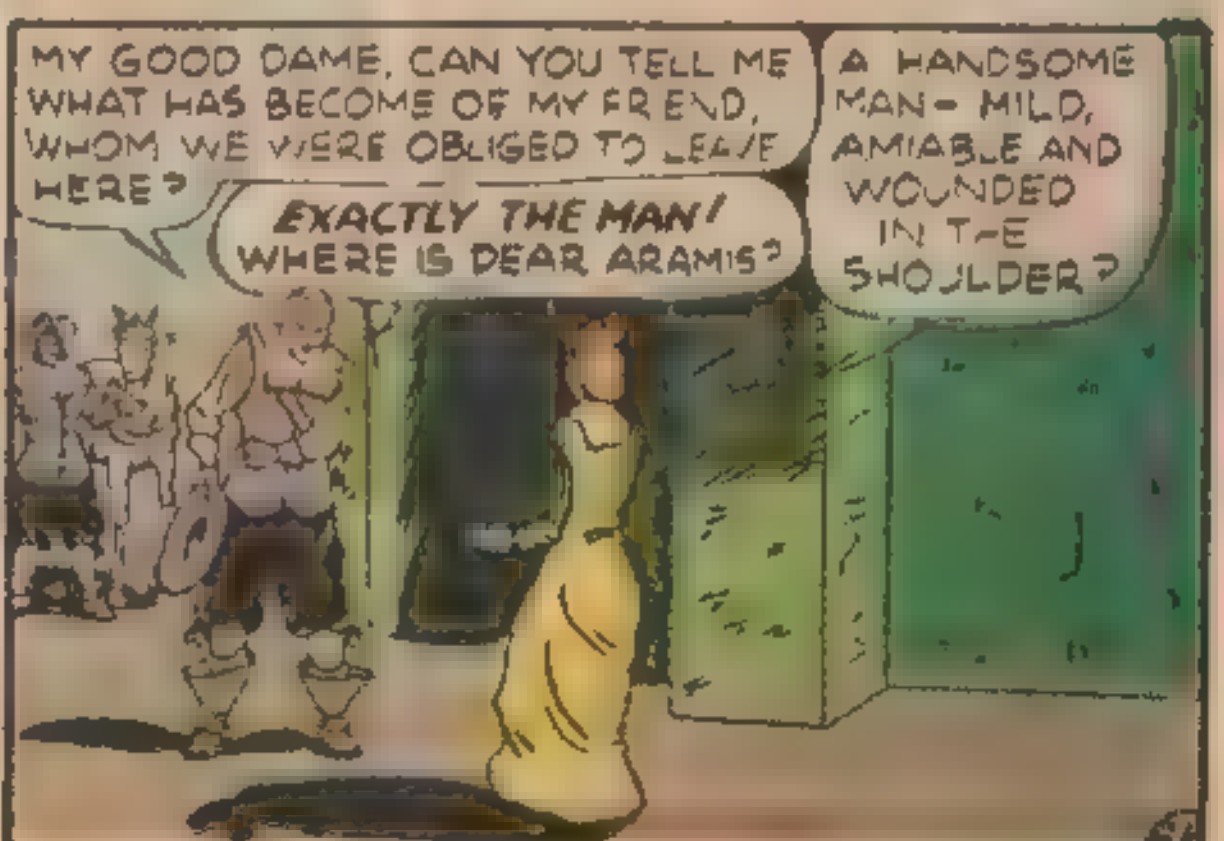
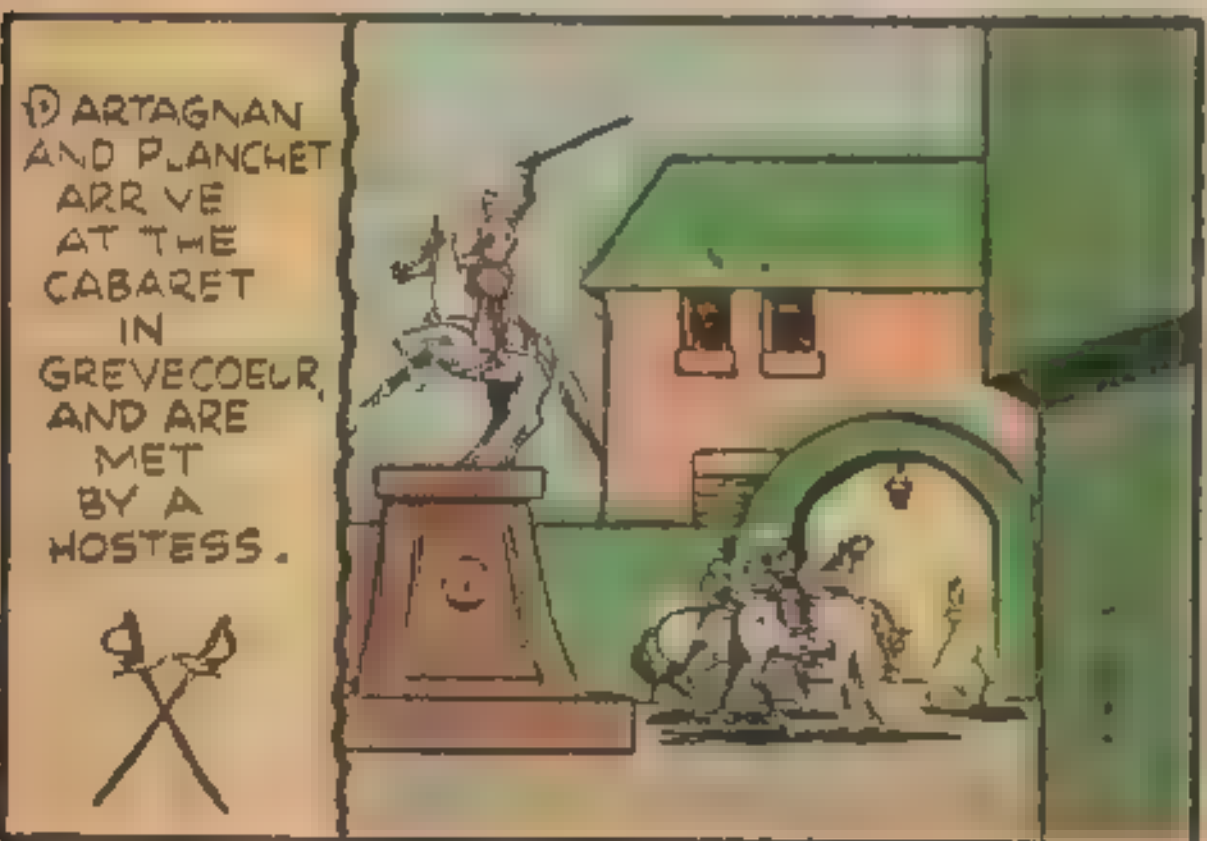
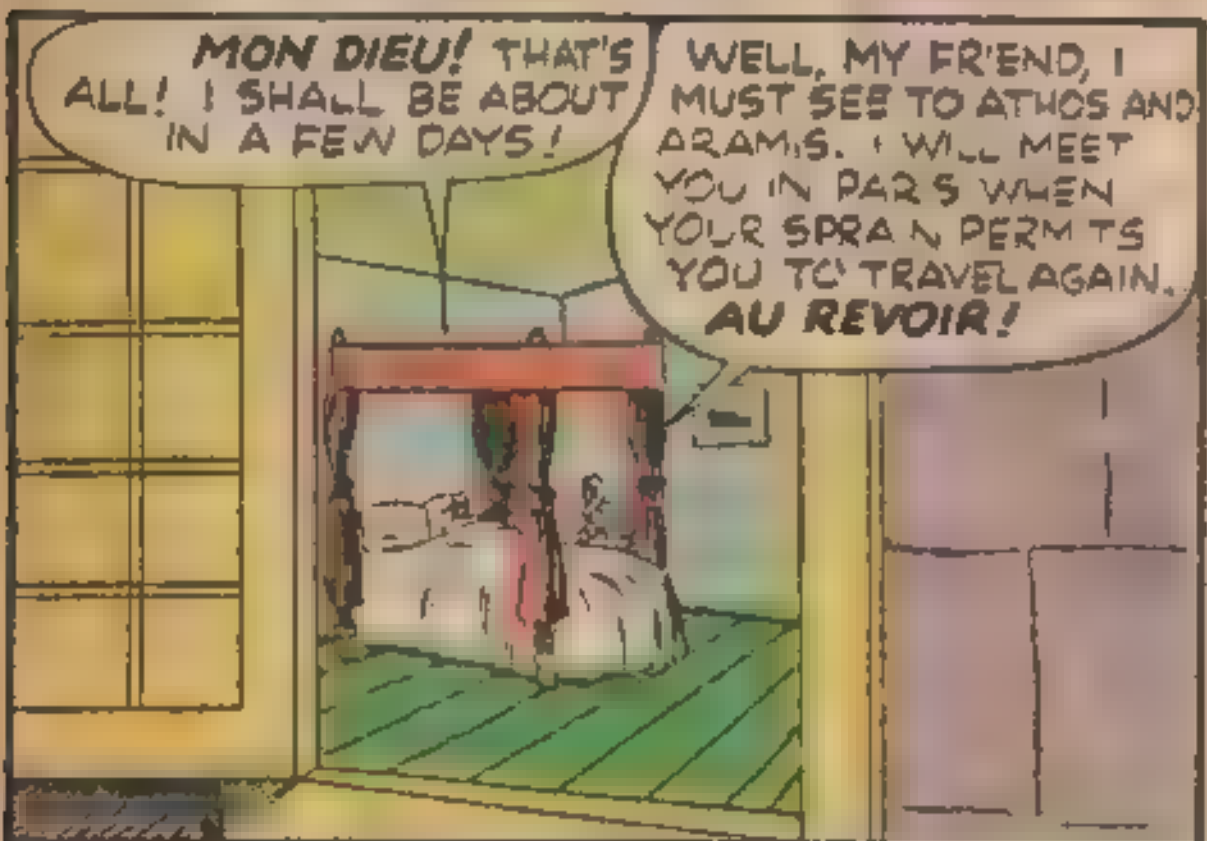
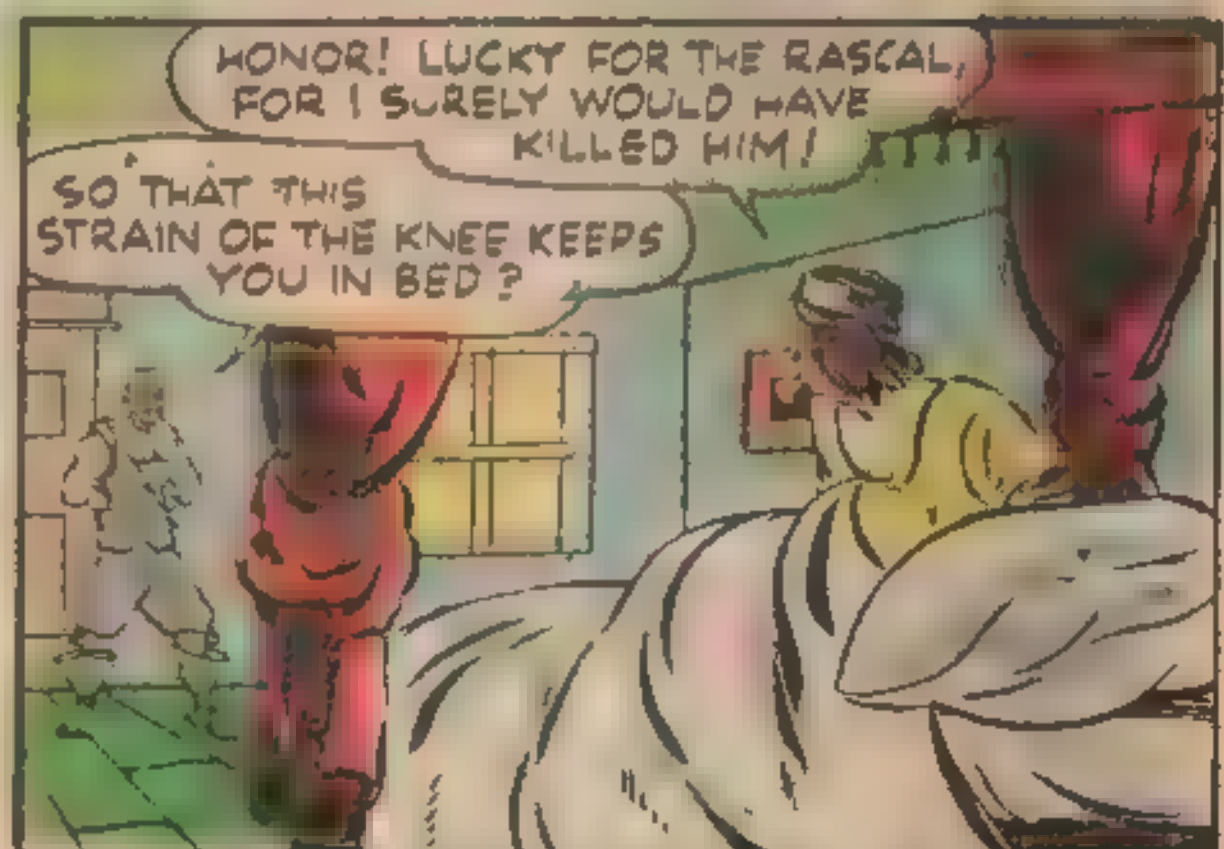
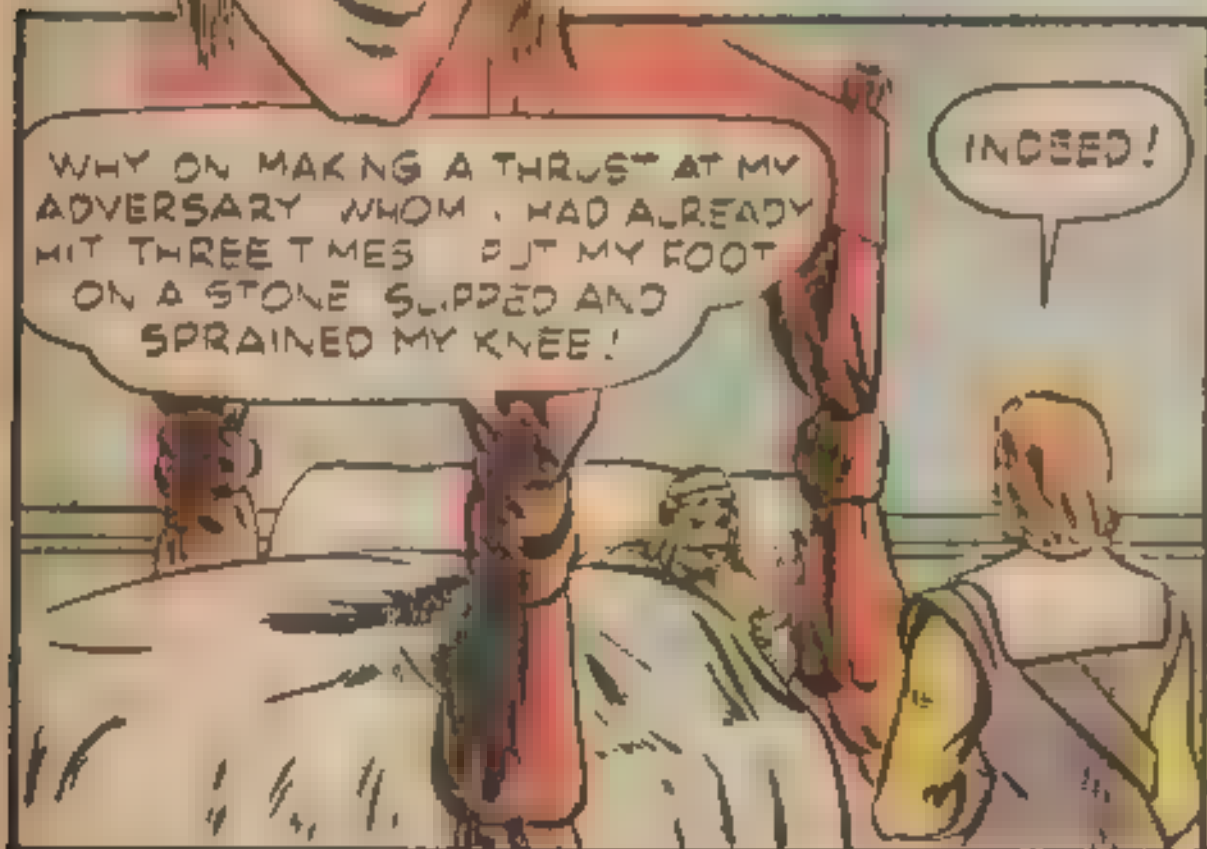
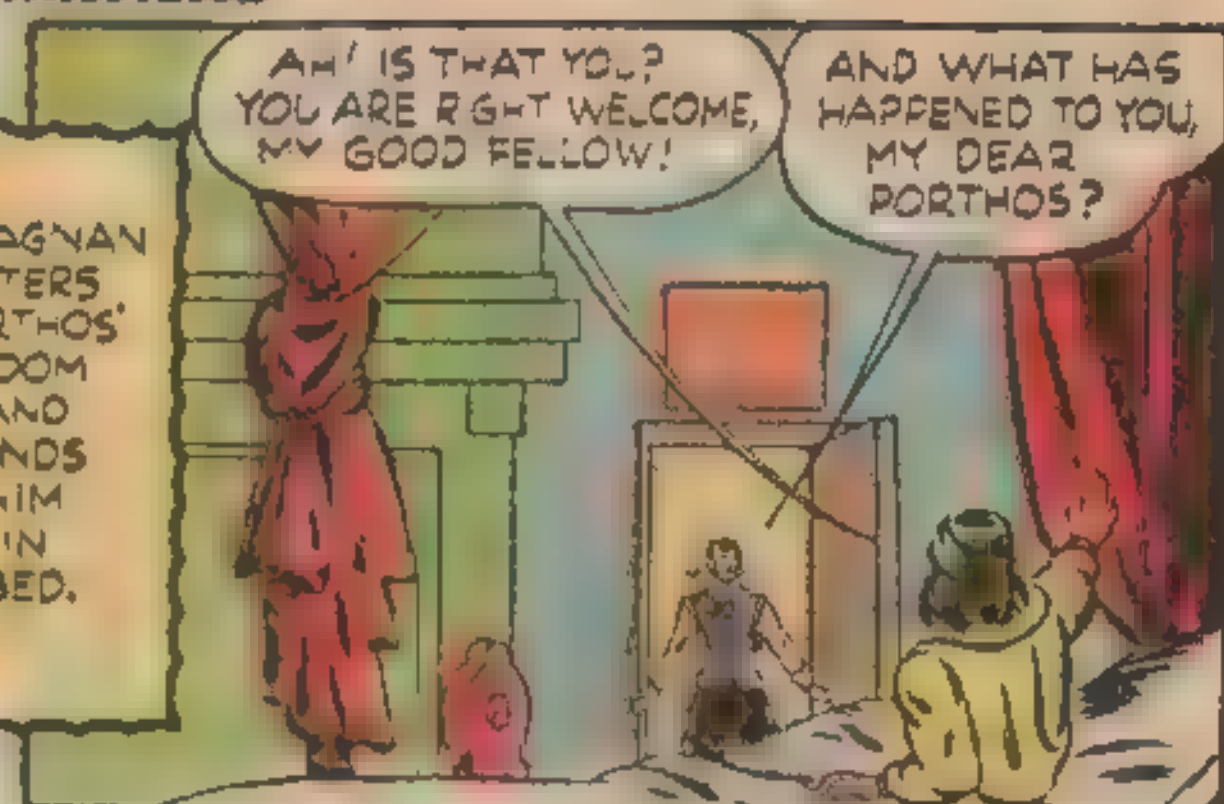
WHY? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

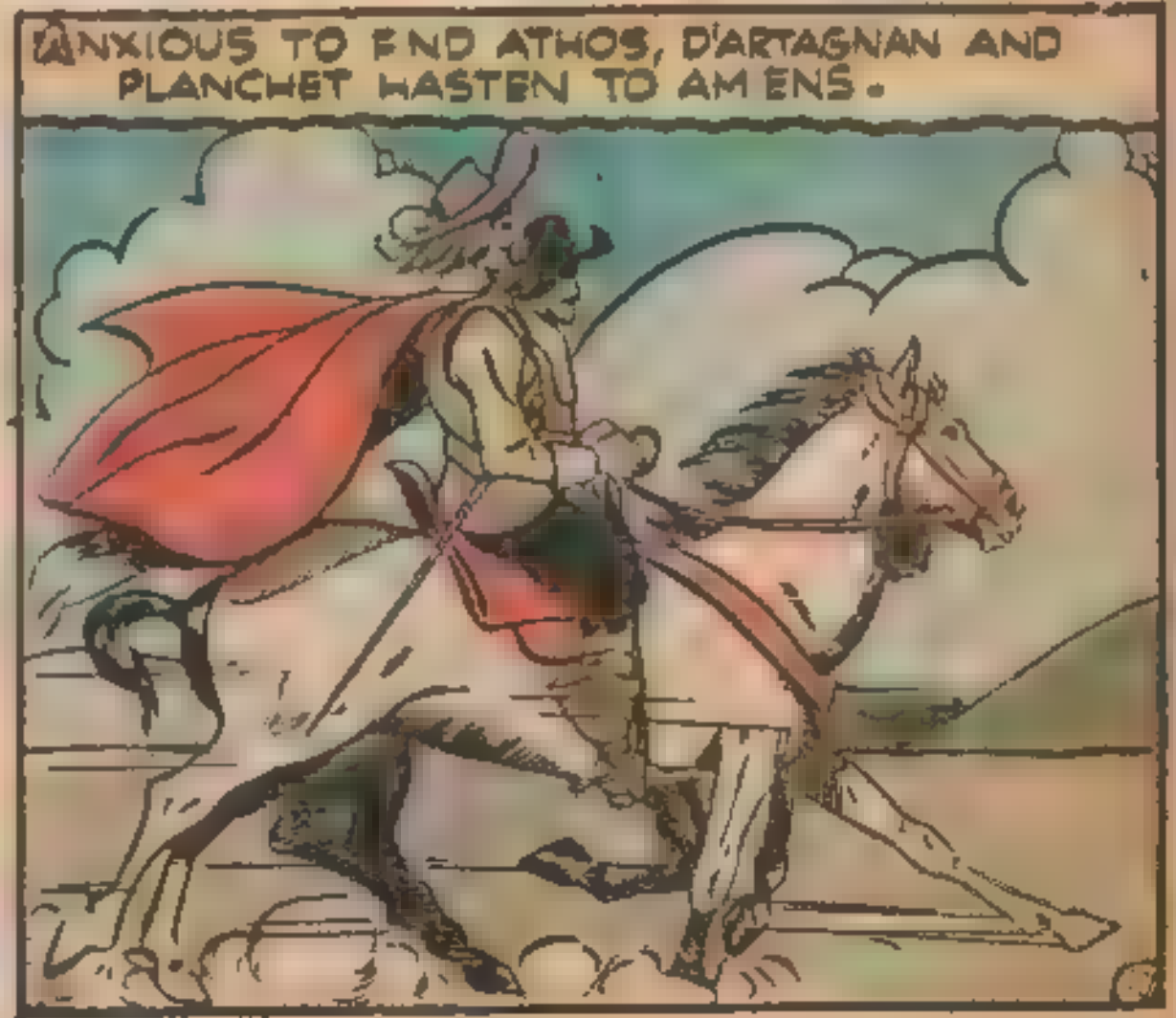
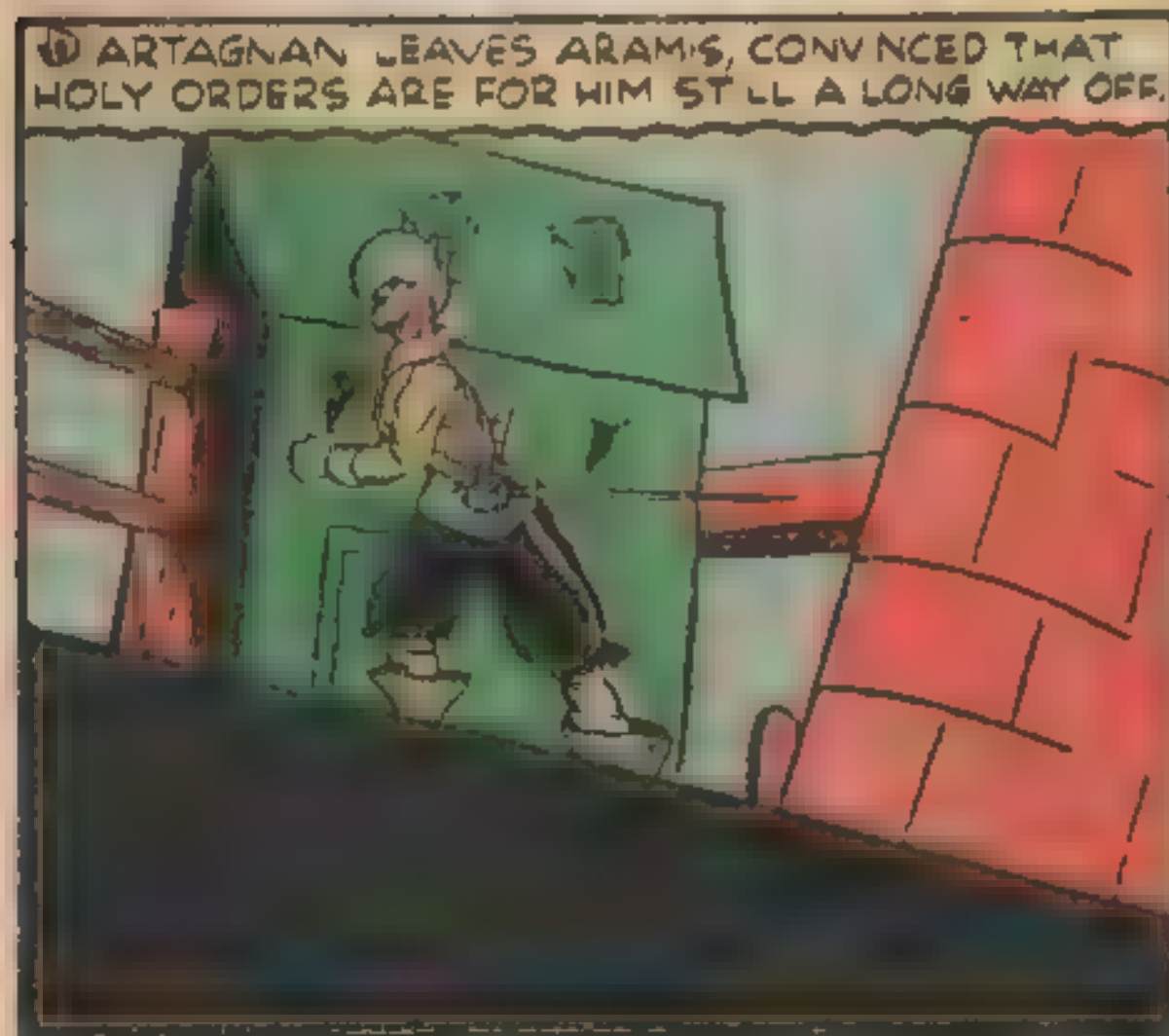
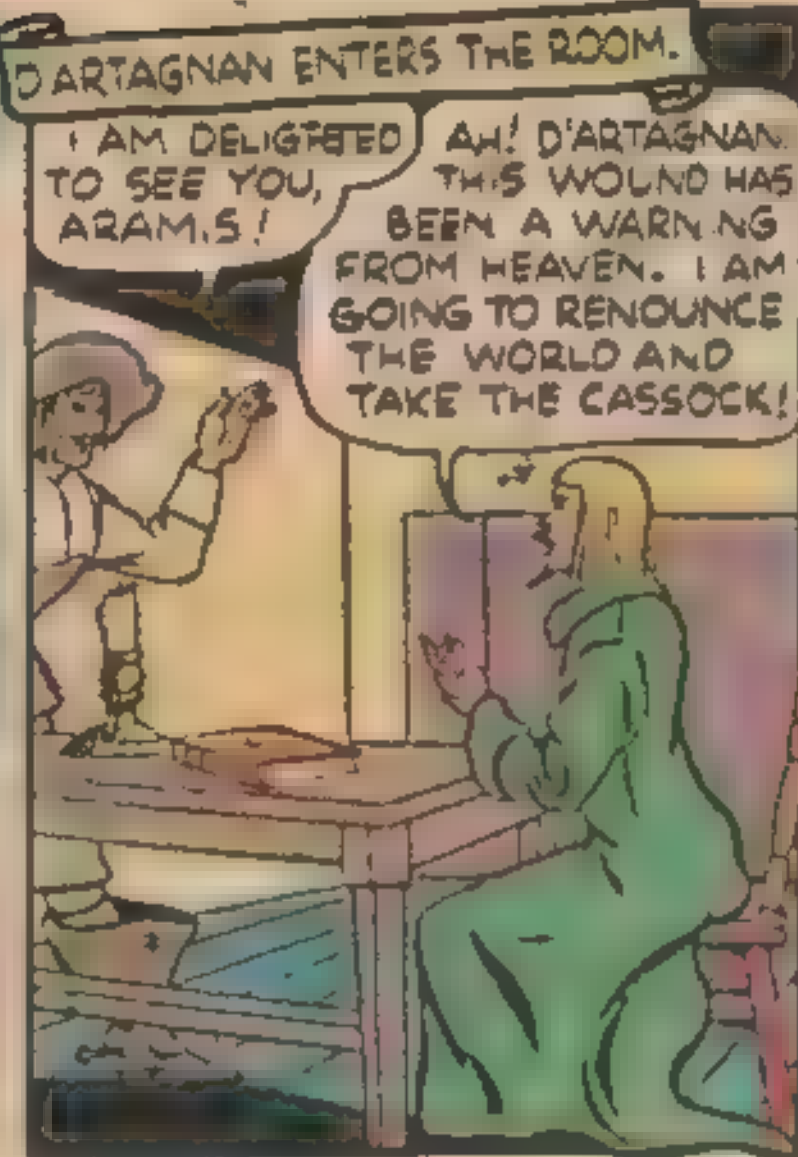
WE ASKED HIM FOR MONEY!

CLASSICS Illustrated



D'ARTAGNAN ENTERS PORTHOS' ROOM AND FINDS HIM IN BED.





CLASSICS Illustrated

THEY ENTER THE CURSED HOTEL WHERE THEY HAD LAST SEEN ATHOS.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THAT GENTLEMAN WHOM YOU ACCUSED TWELVE DAYS AGO OF PASSING BAD MONEY?

AH, MONSIEUR! HOW DEARLY HAVE I PAID FOR THAT FAULT!

THAT GENTLEMAN, I SAY! WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM?

DEIGN TO LISTEN TO ME, MONSIEUR, AND BE MERCIFUL!

SPEAK, YOU WRETCH!

AFTER KILLING ONE MAN AND SAVAGELY WOUNDING TWO OTHERS, HE AND HIS LACKEY BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN MY CELLAR.

AND WHERE IS HE NOW?

IN THE CELLAR, WHERE HE AND HIS SERVANT HAVE EATEN ALL MY FOOD AND DRUNK ALL MY WINE!

WHAT! YOU SCOUNDREL! YOU HAVE KEPT HIM IN THE CELLAR ALL THIS TIME!

MERCIFUL HEAVEN! HE PERSISTS IN REMAINING THERE - WE CANNOT GET HIM OUT!

SO FROM THAT TIME -?

-SO FROM THAT TIME HE HAS RUINED ME! ALL MY PROVISIONS ARE THERE AND HE REFUSES ME ADMITTANCE! I AM FORCED TO TURN AWAY TRAVELERS FOR WANT OF FOOD AND DRINK!

LAUGHING HEARTILY, D'ARTAGNAN RESCUES ATHOS AND GRIMAUD.

HOLA! MY FRIENDS - YOUR SIEGE IS OVER!

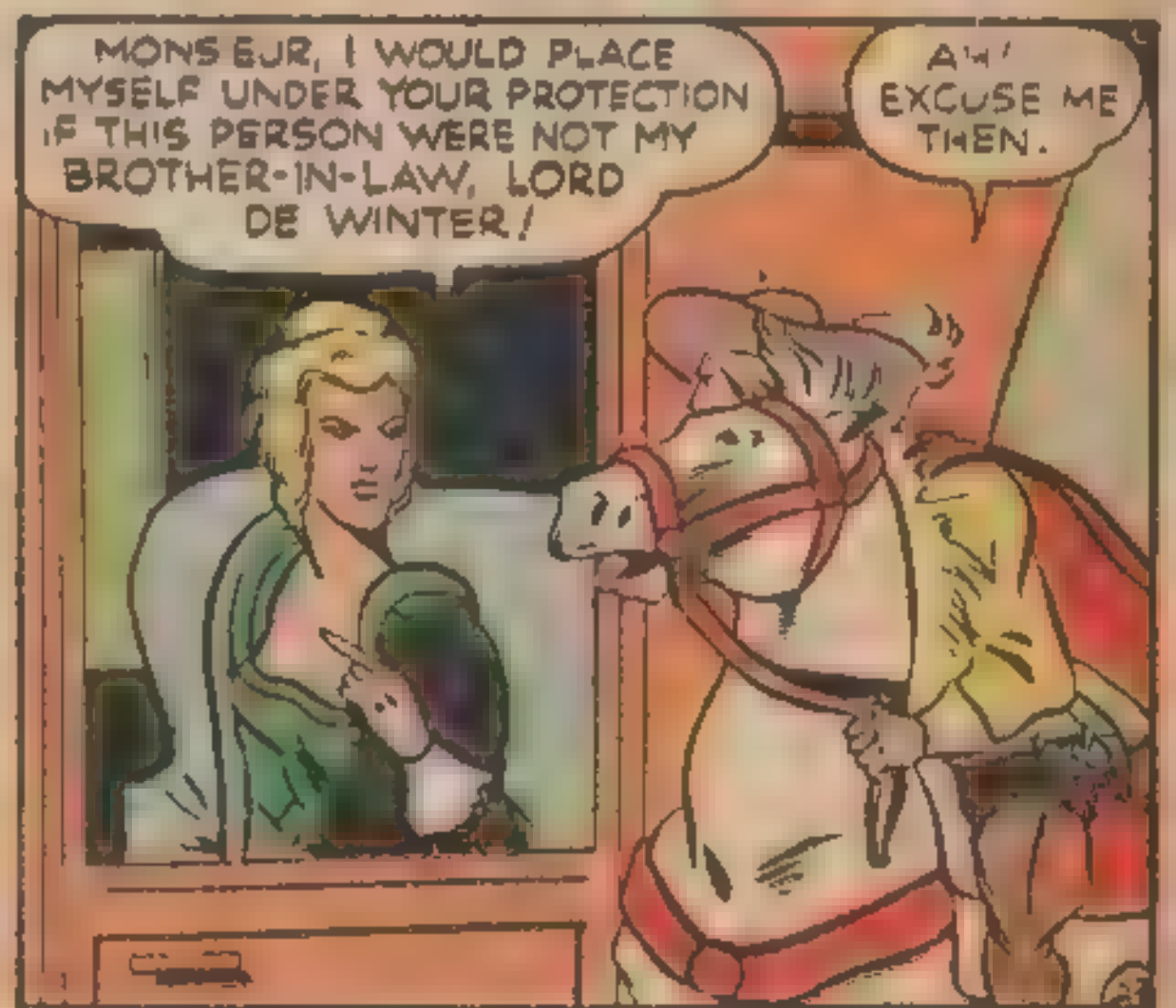
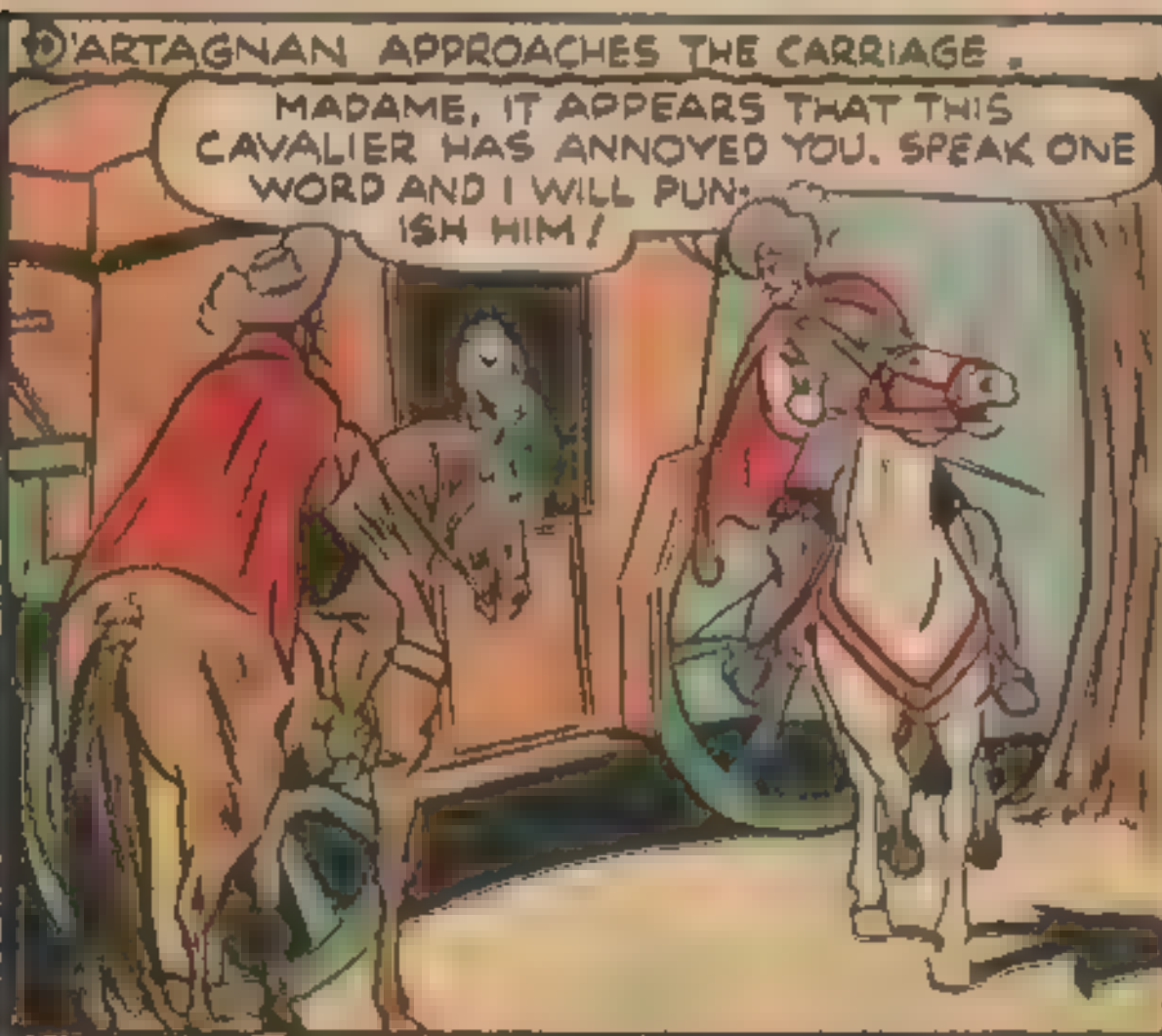
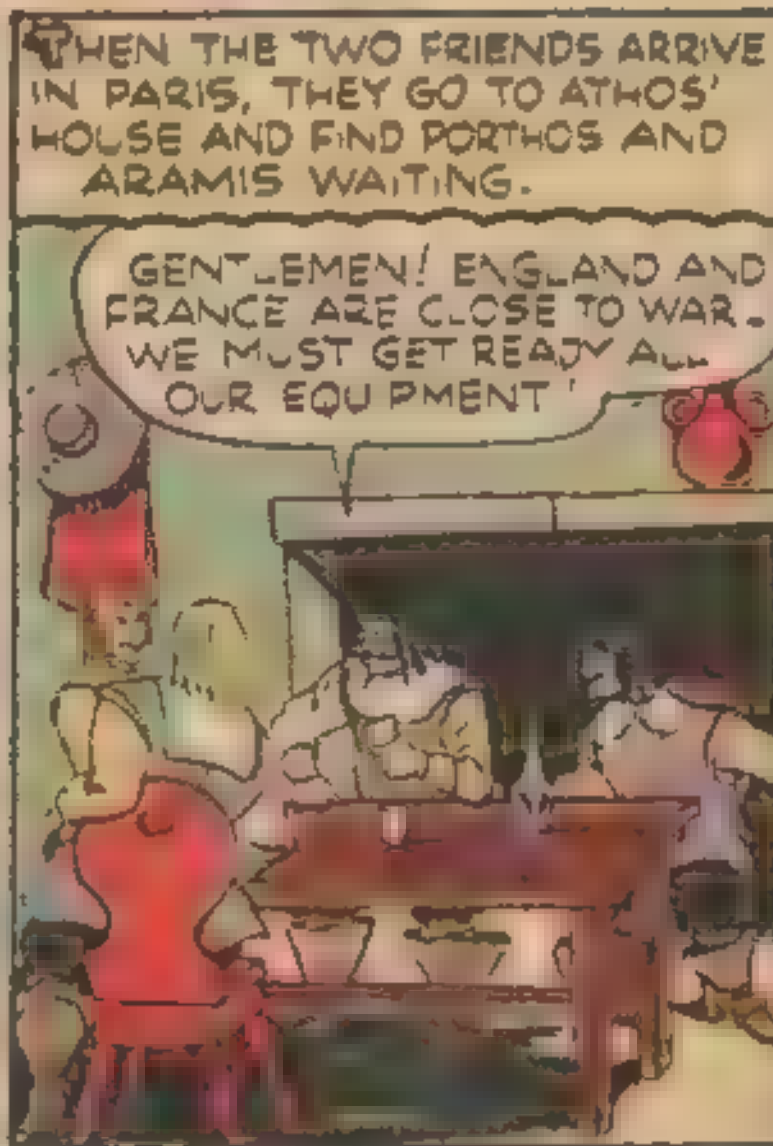
THEY SIT DOWN TO DRINK AND D'ARTAGNAN TELLS ATHOS HOW HE LOST HIS MADAME BONACIEUX.

TRIFLES! NOTHING BUT TRIFLES!

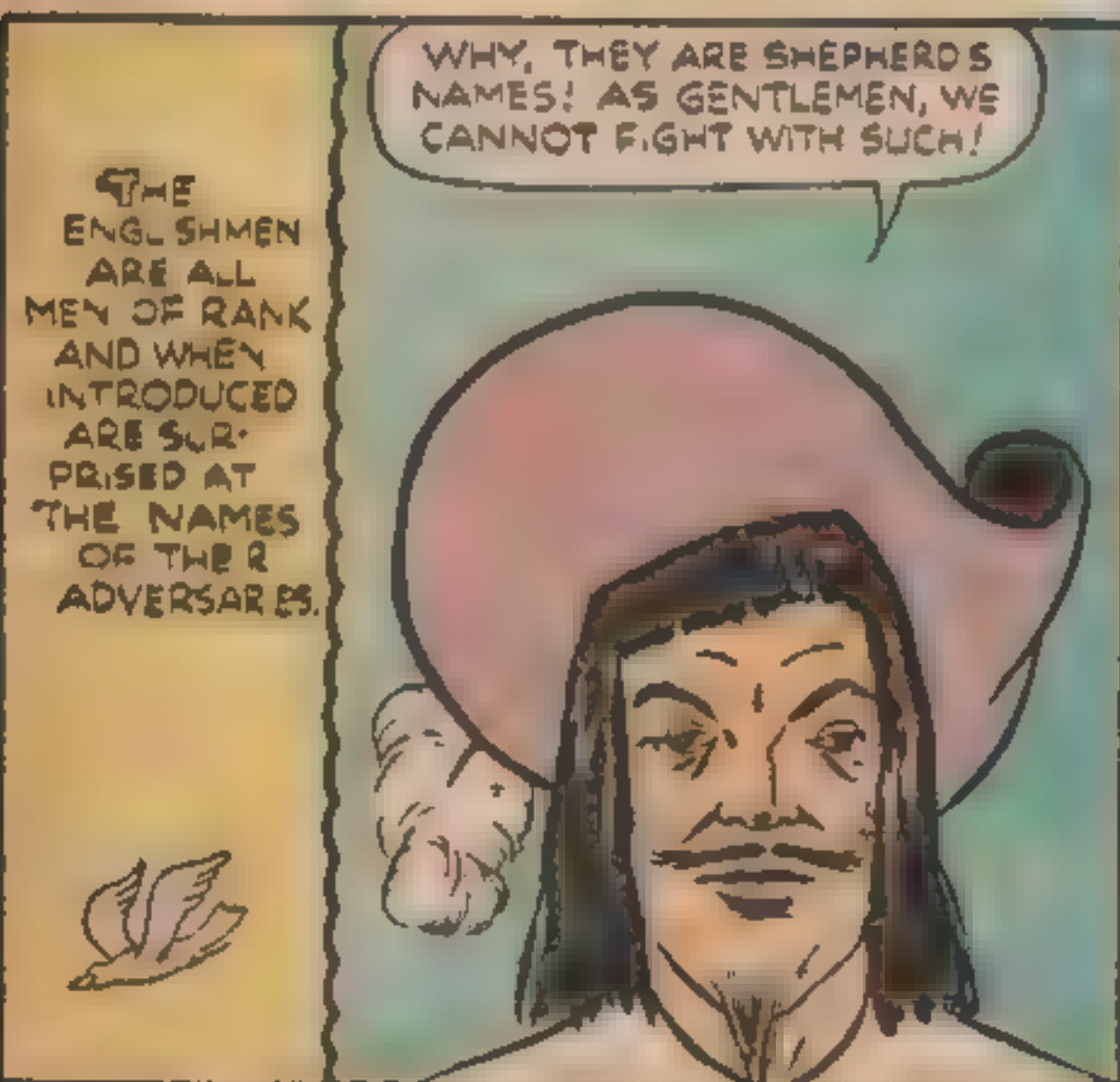
THAT COMES VERY ILL FROM YOU WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE!

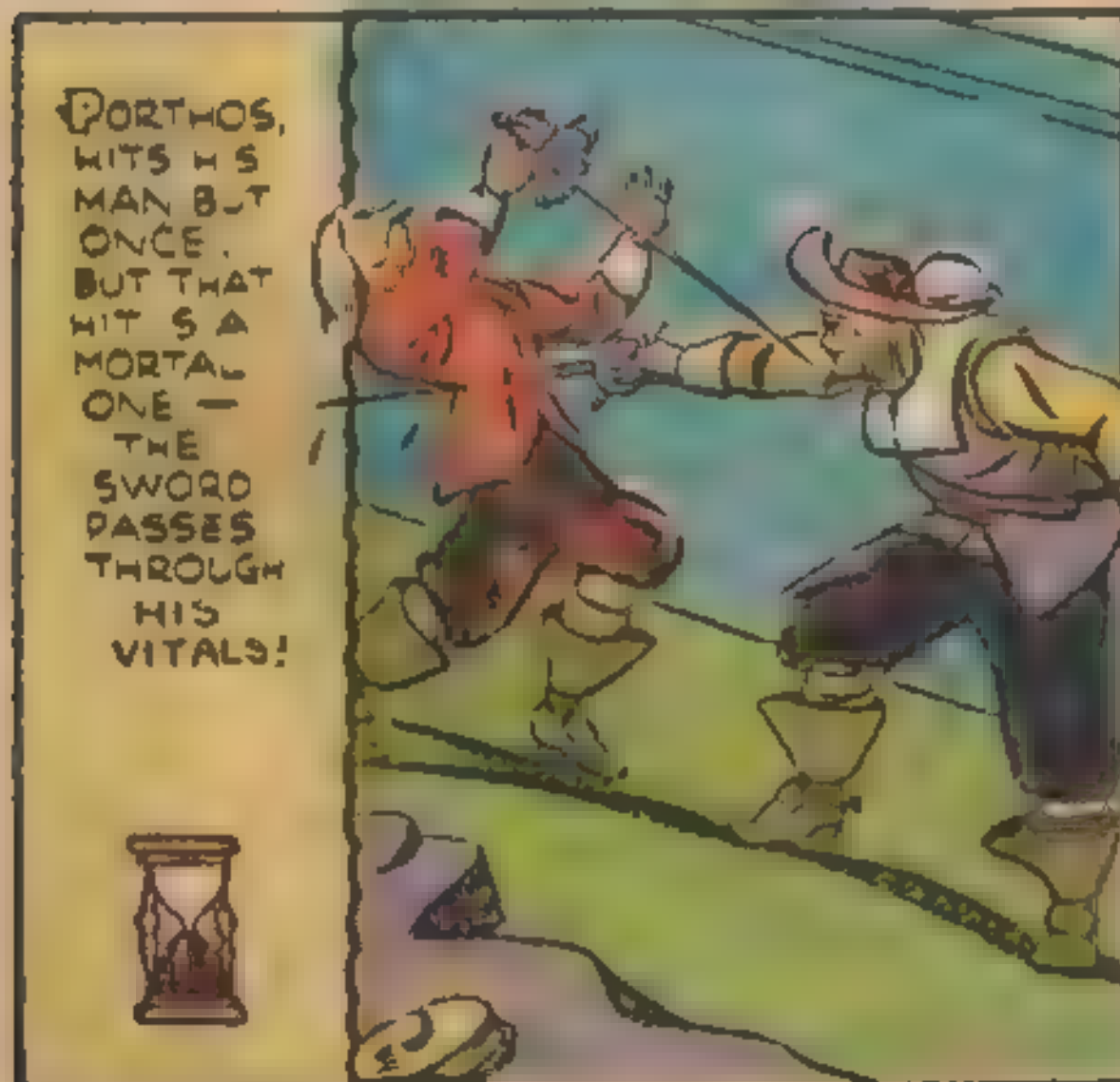
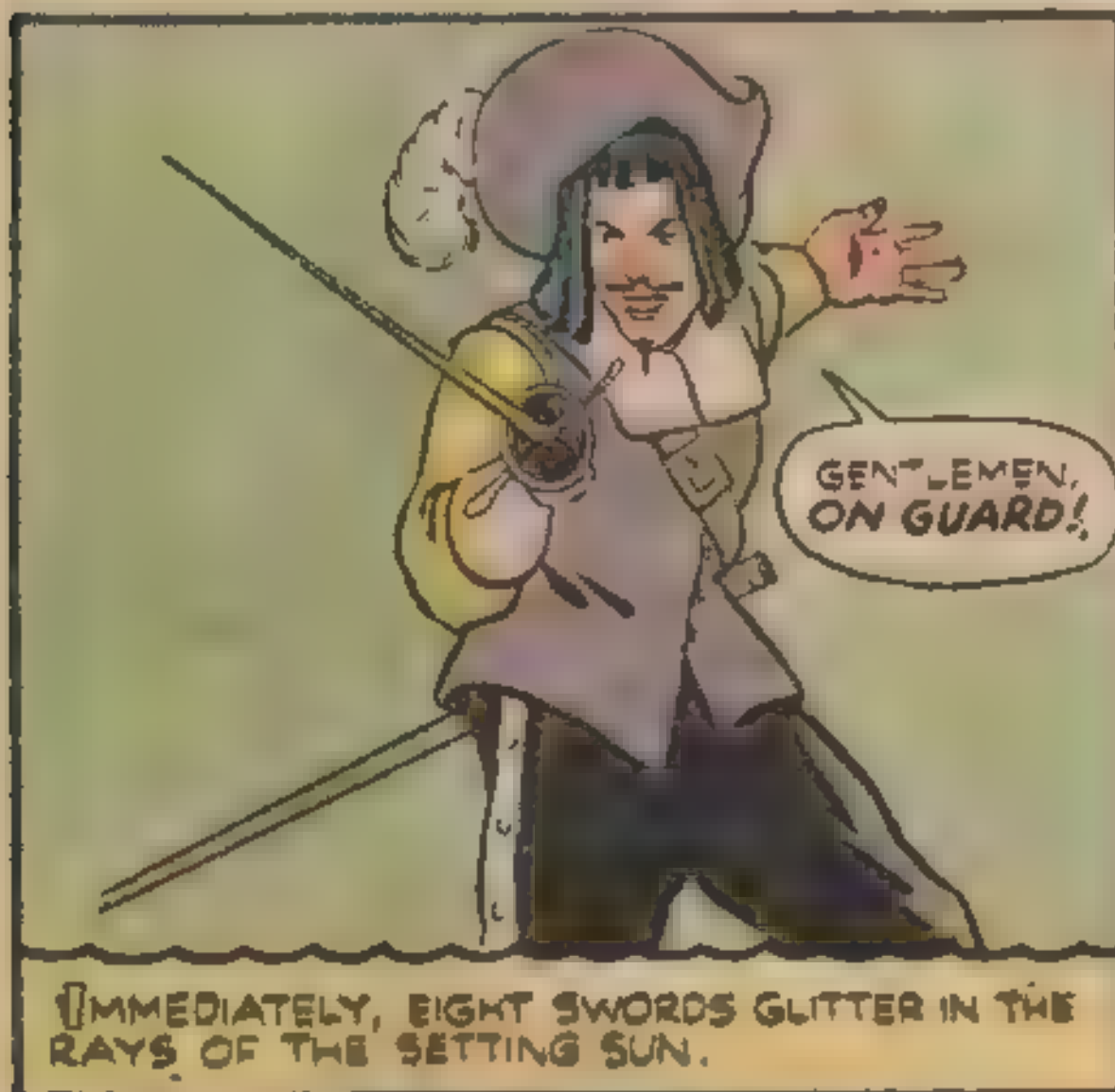
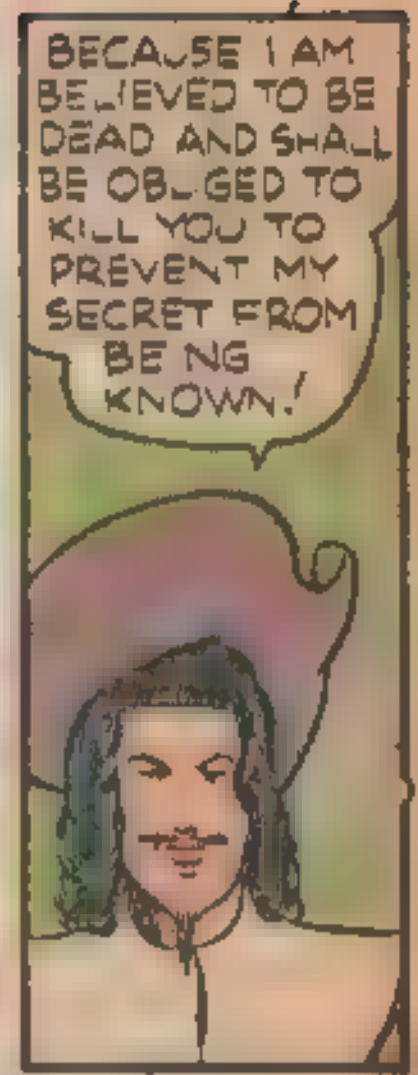
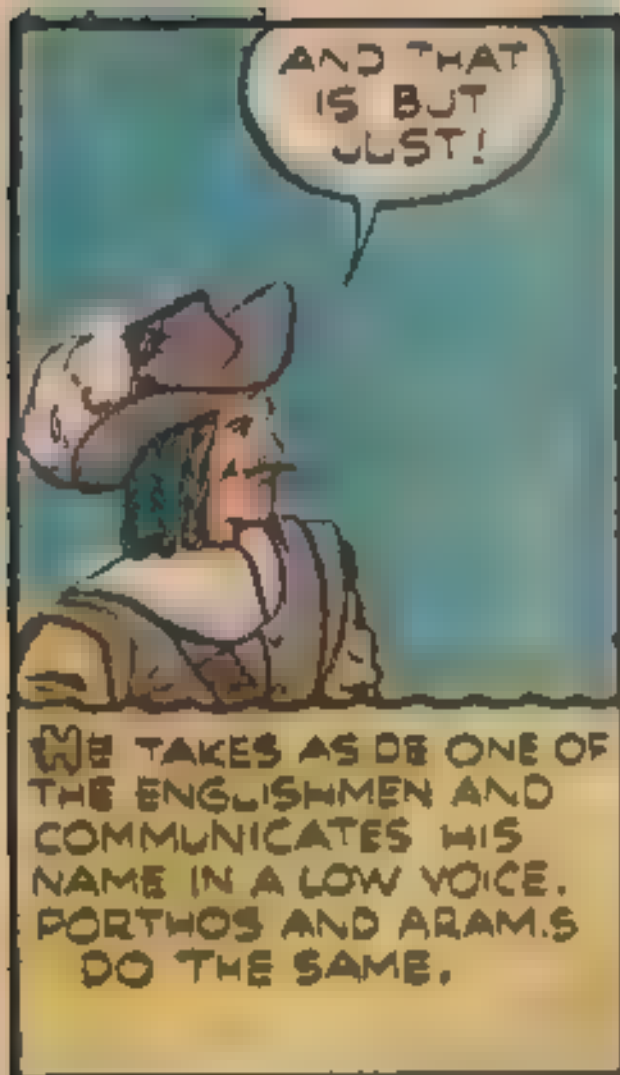
PARDIEU! I SHALL RELATE TO YOU A REAL TALE OF LOVE!

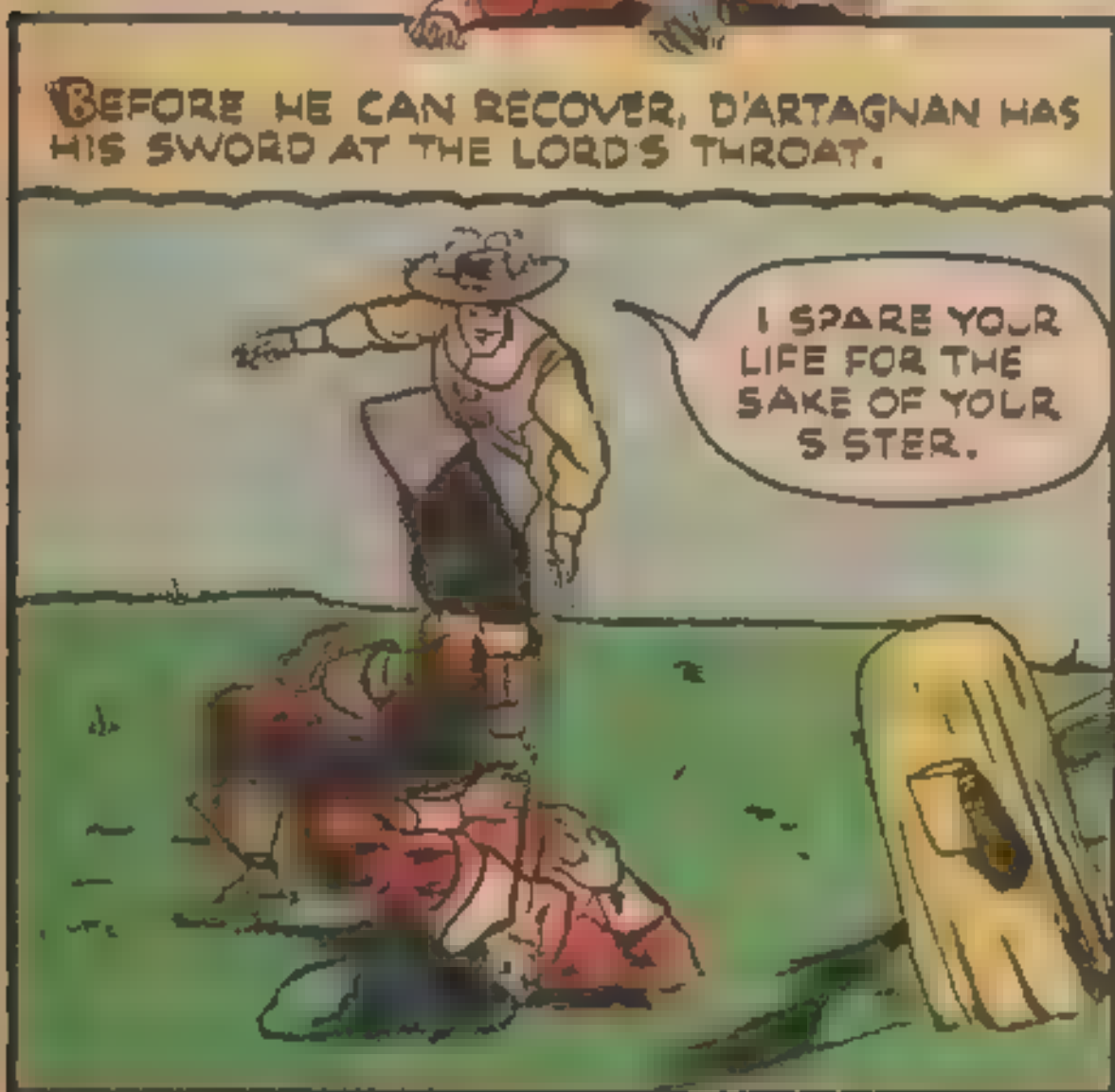
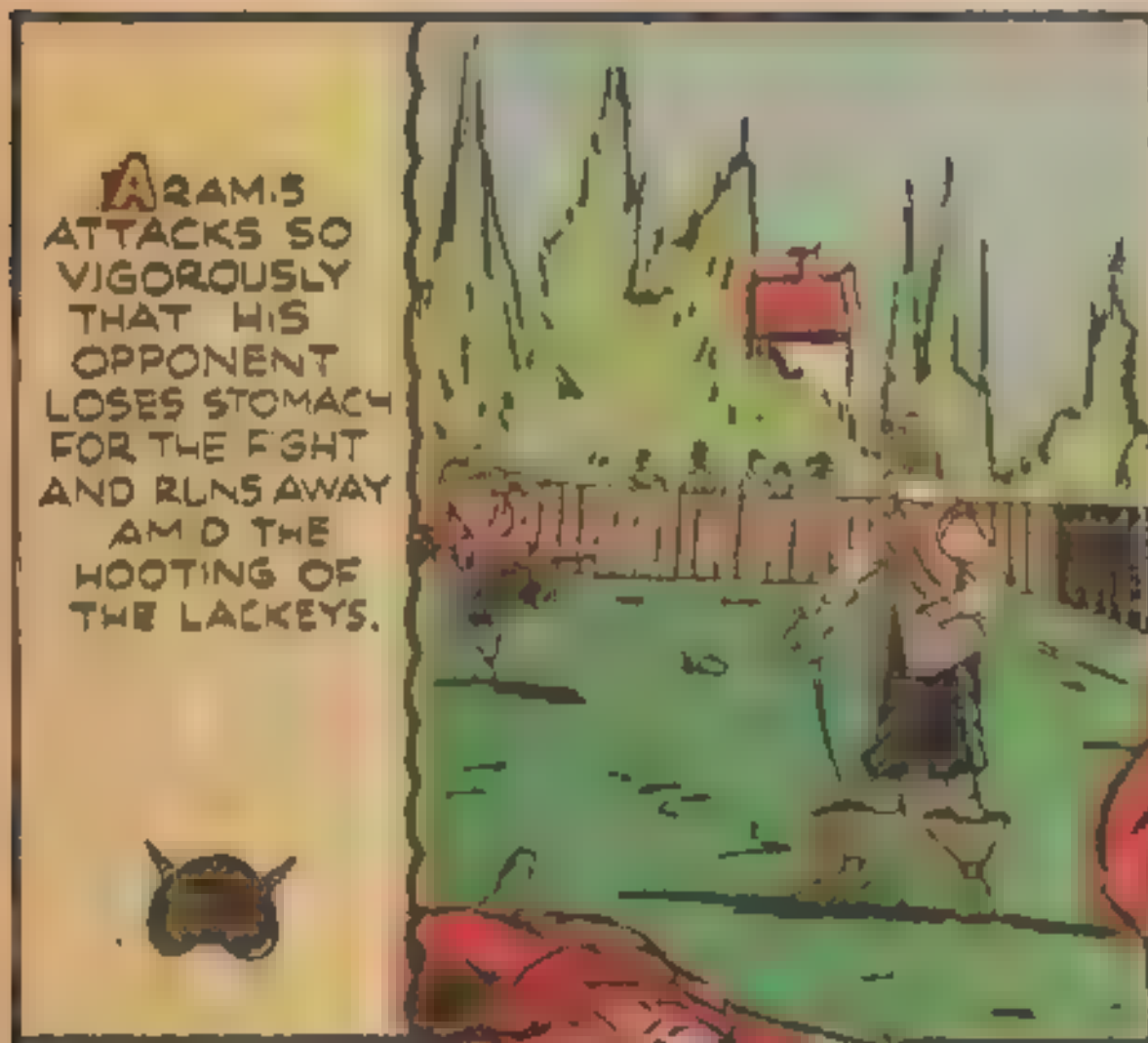
CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated







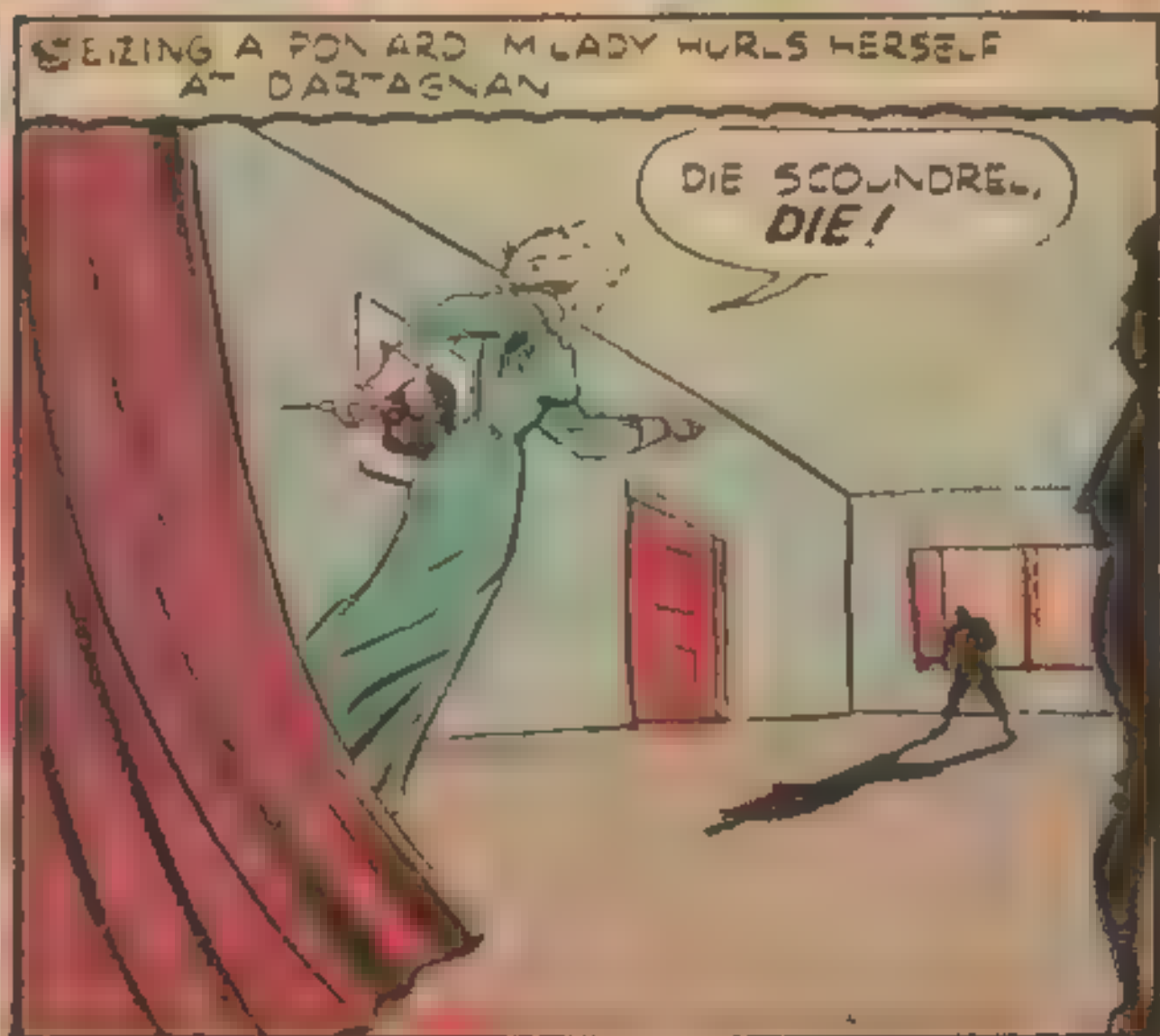
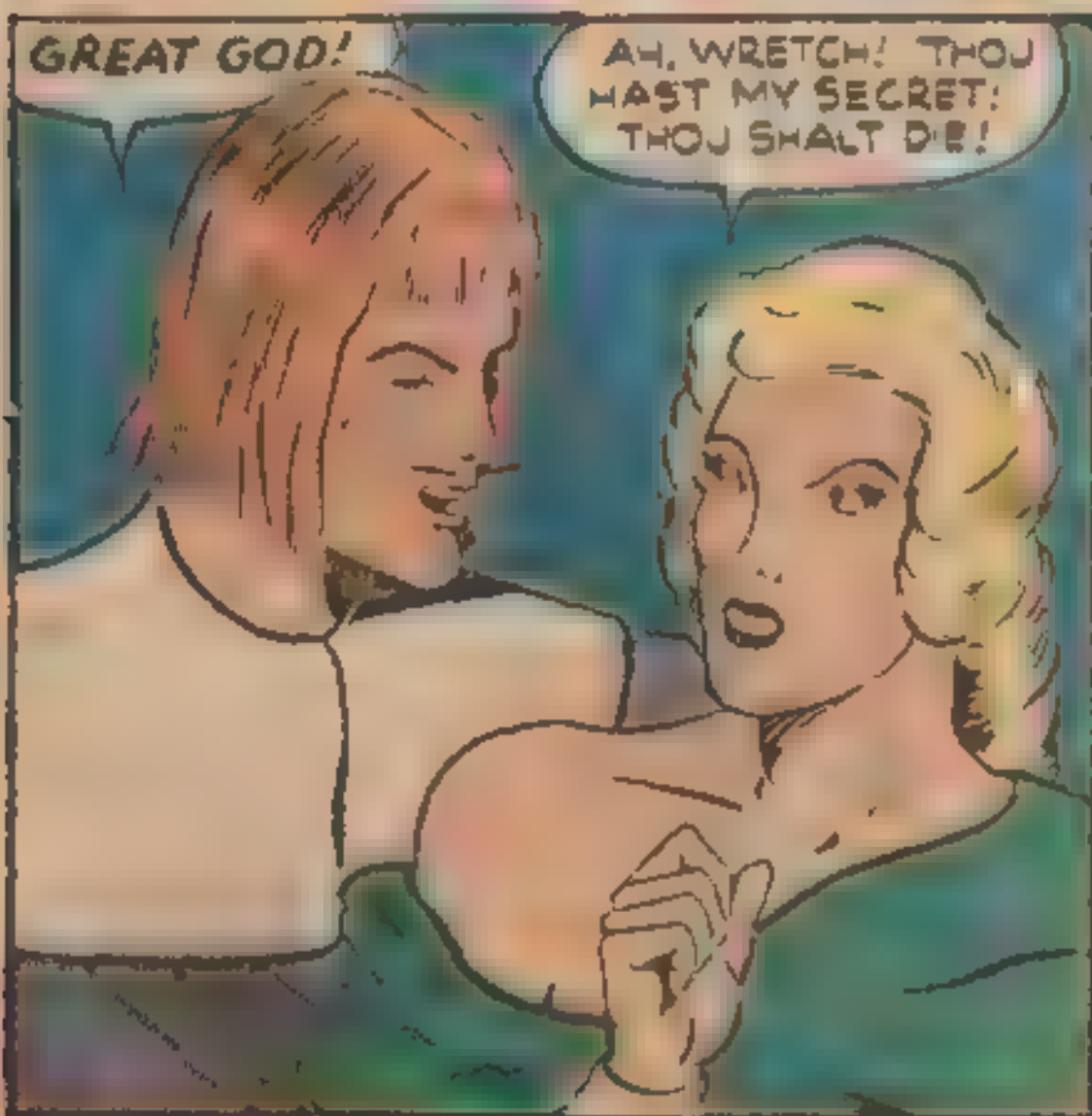
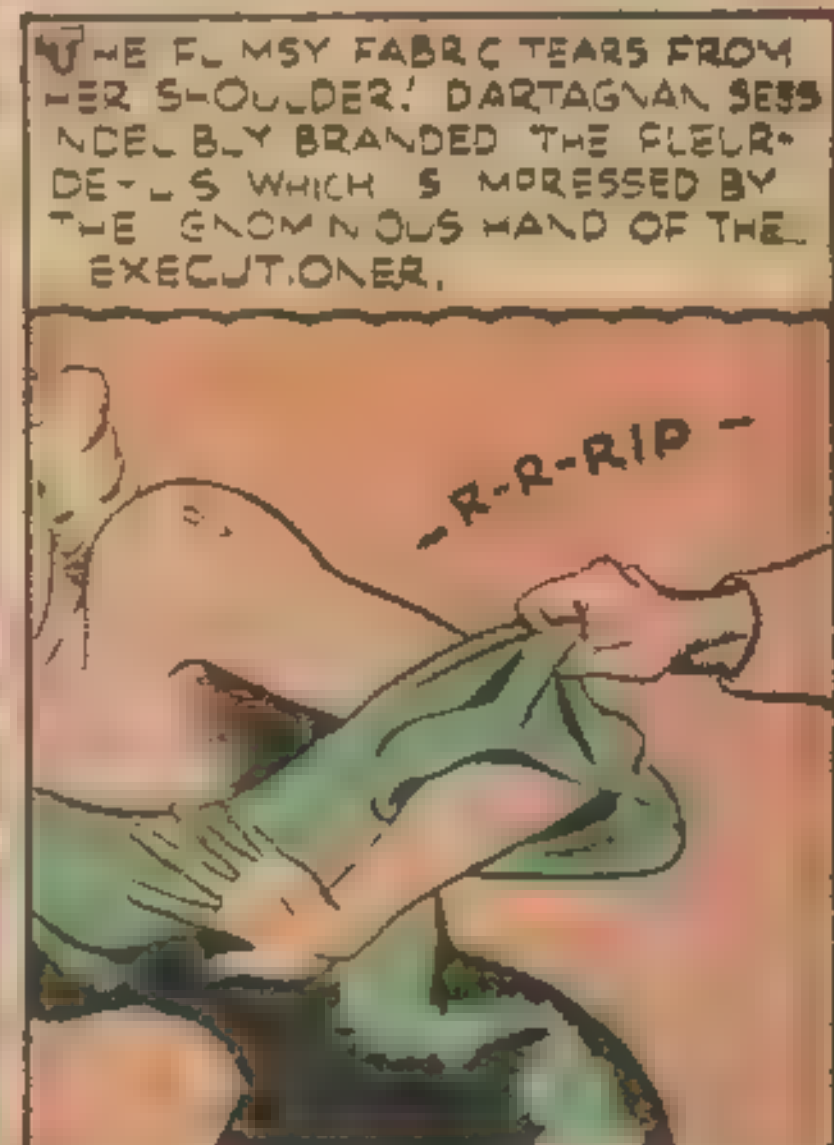
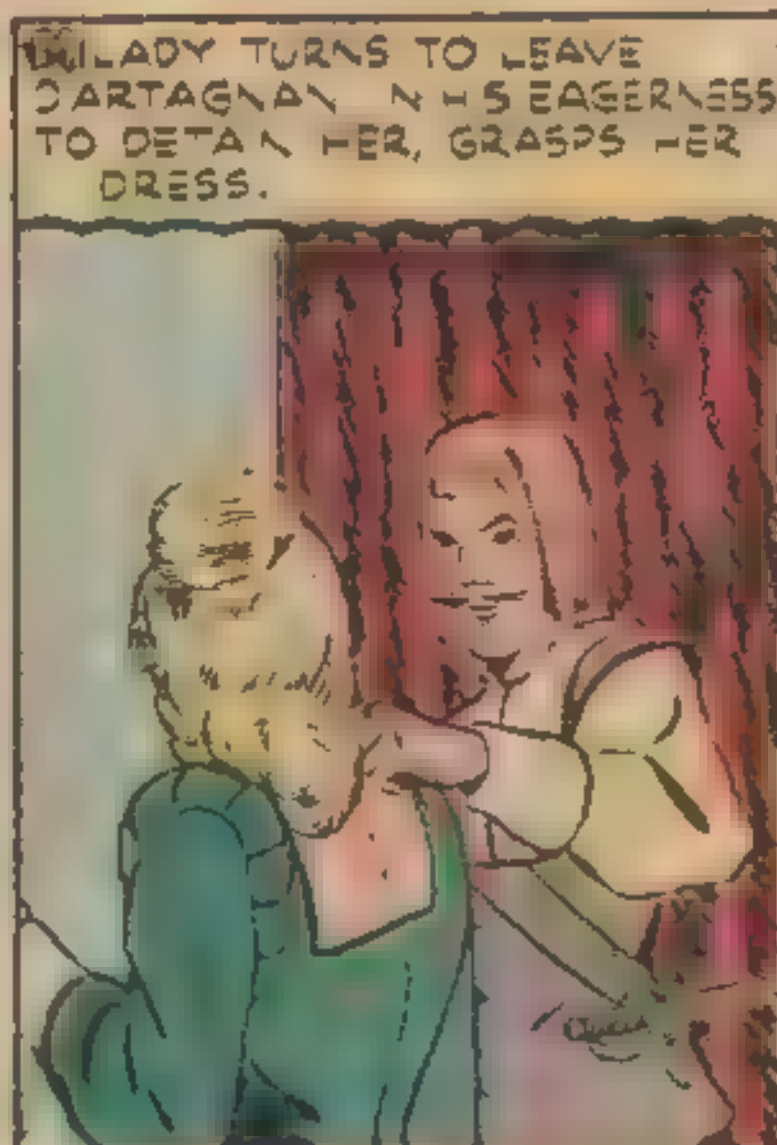
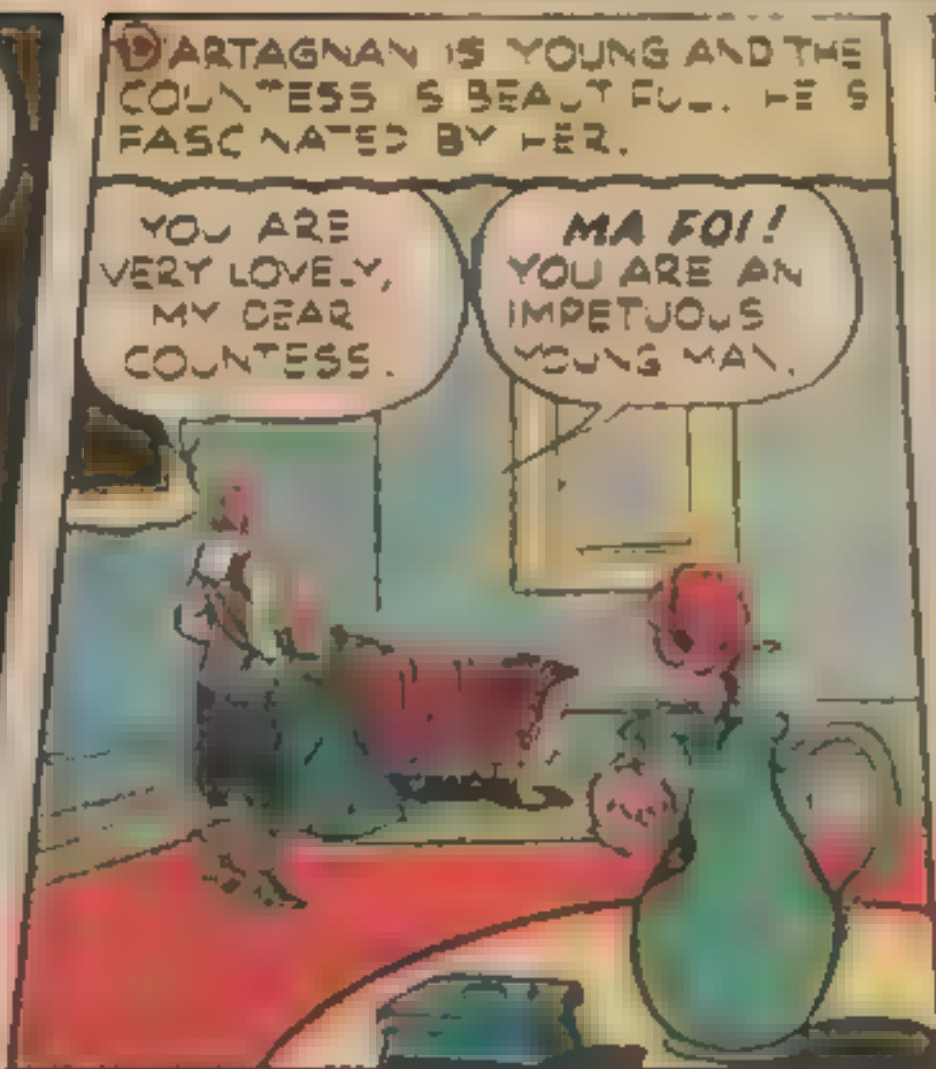
D'ARTAGNAN, ANXIOUS TO DISCOVER MILADY'S CONNECTION WITH THE MAN OF MEUNG, ACCEPTS.

LATER, LORD DE WINTER WELCOMES D'ARTAGNAN TO HIS HOME.



LATER, A SERVANT ENTERS AND WHISPERS TO LORD DE WINTER, WHO THEN TURNS TO DARTAGNAN:







THE FOUR FRIENDS GATHER THEIR EQUIPMENT, AND, FOLLOWED BY THEIR LACKEYS, JOIN THEIR COMPANIES



THE MUSKETEERS PASS IN REVIEW OF THEIR KING



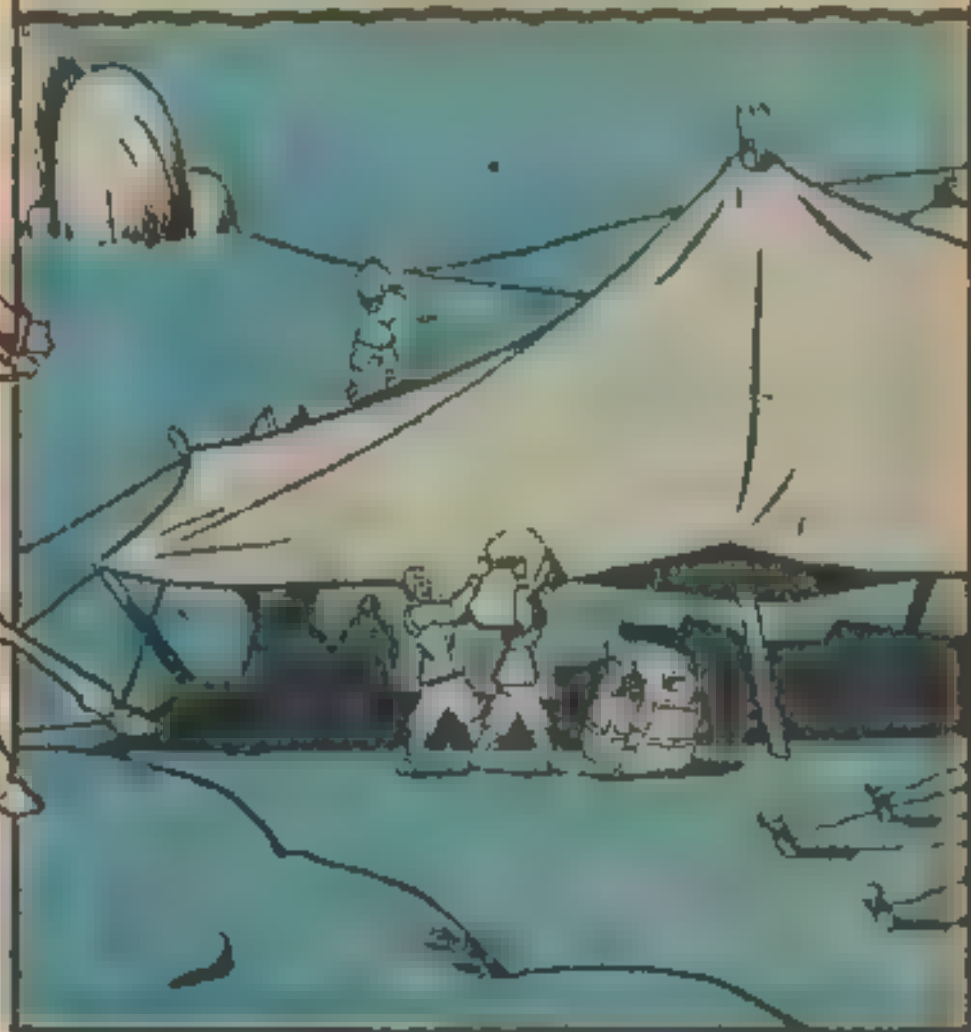
DARTAGNAN DOES NOT OBSERVE MILADY, WHO, STANDING ON THE SIDELINES, POINTS HIM OUT TO TWO EVIL-LOOKING MEN.



TWO MEN MOUNT HORSES AND FOLLOW THE SOLDIERS.



THAT EVENING, THE SOLDIERS ESTABLISH CAMP BEFORE LA ROCHELLE.



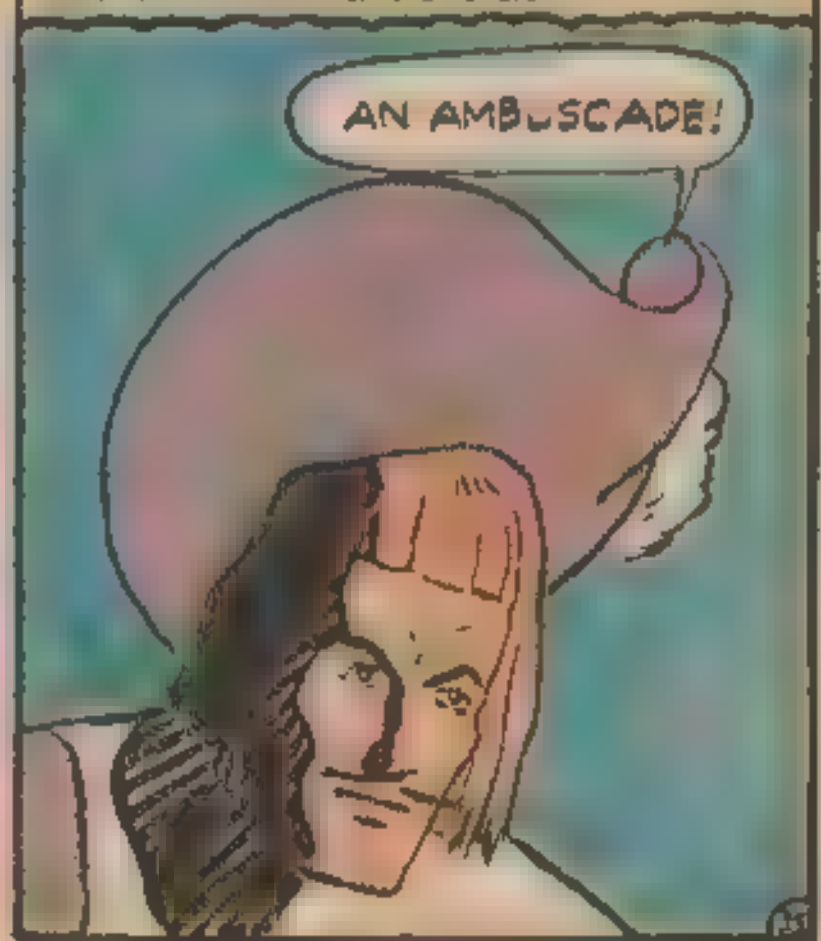
DARTAGNAN, THINKING OF MADAME BONACEUX, WALKS OFF ALONE ALONG A LITTLE ROAD.



DARTAGNAN'S REVERIES ARE CUT SHORT BY THE GLITTER OF A MUSKET BARREL CONCEALED BEHIND A HEDGE.



DIRECTING HIS COURSE AWAY FROM THAT HEDGE HE SEES THE EXTREMITY OF ANOTHER MUSKET ON THE OTHER SIDE.



CLASSICS Illustrated

TWO BALLS WHISTLE BY, KNOCKING OFF HIS HAT.



DARTAGNAN IS TRAPPED! HE DROPS TO THE GROUND AS THOUGH DEAD!



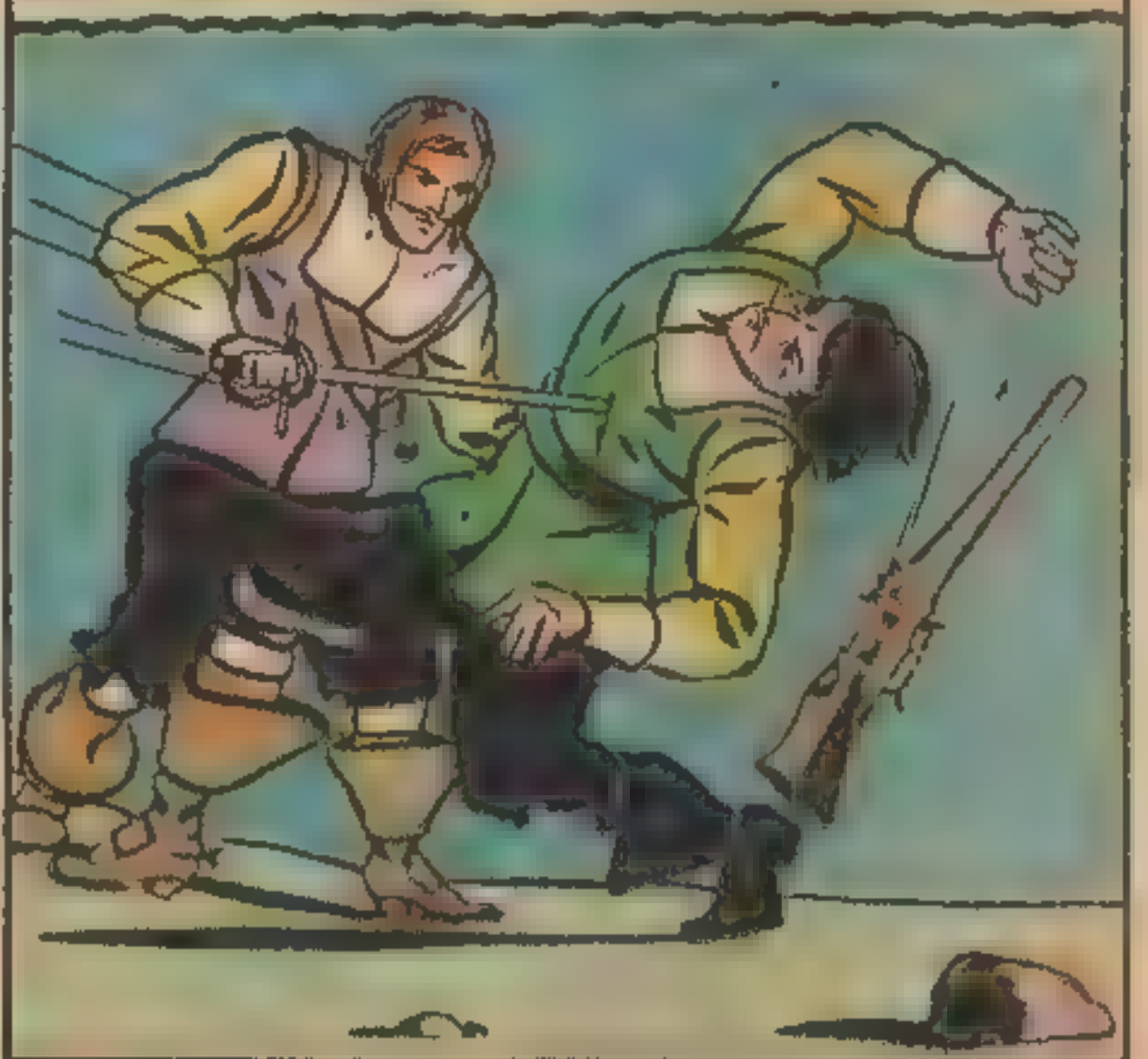
THE ASSASSINS, DECEIVED BY THE TRICK, NEGLECT TO RELOAD THEIR GUNS, AND DRAW CLOSE.



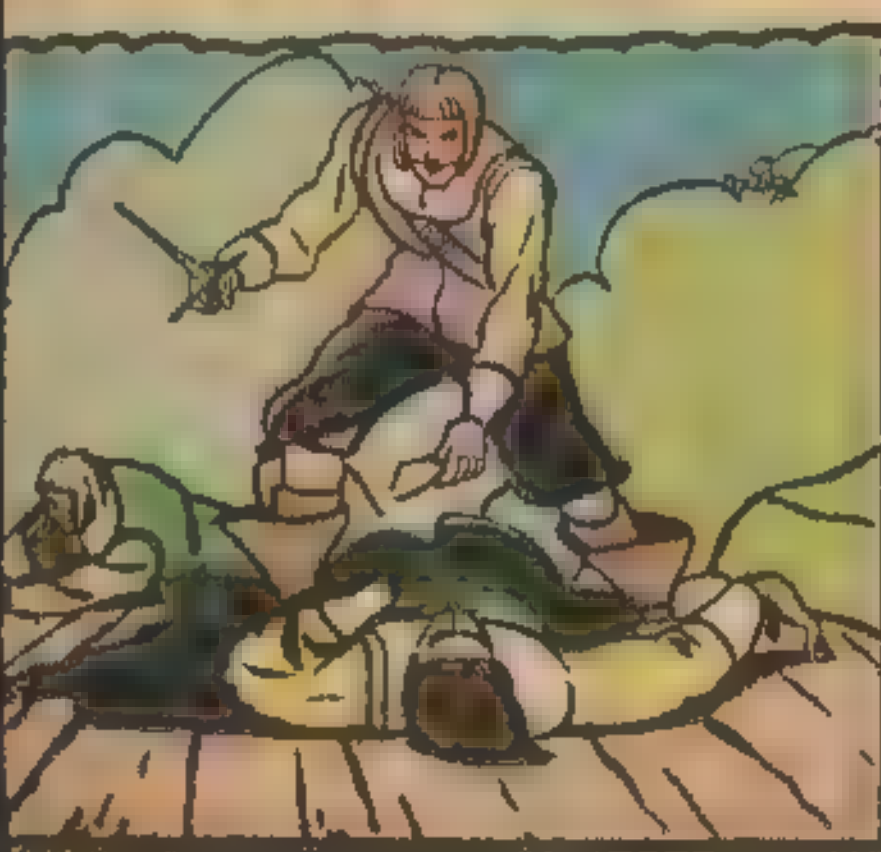
DARTAGNAN SPRINGS UP AND KILLS THE NEARER MAN WITH HIS SWORD!



THE OTHER TAKES HIS GUN BY THE BARREL AND AIMS A TERRIBLE BLOW AT DARTAGNAN, WHO SPRINGS ASIDE AND THEN RUNS HIM THROUGH!



DARTAGNAN SEARCHES THE LIFELESS MAN AND FINDS A LETTER.

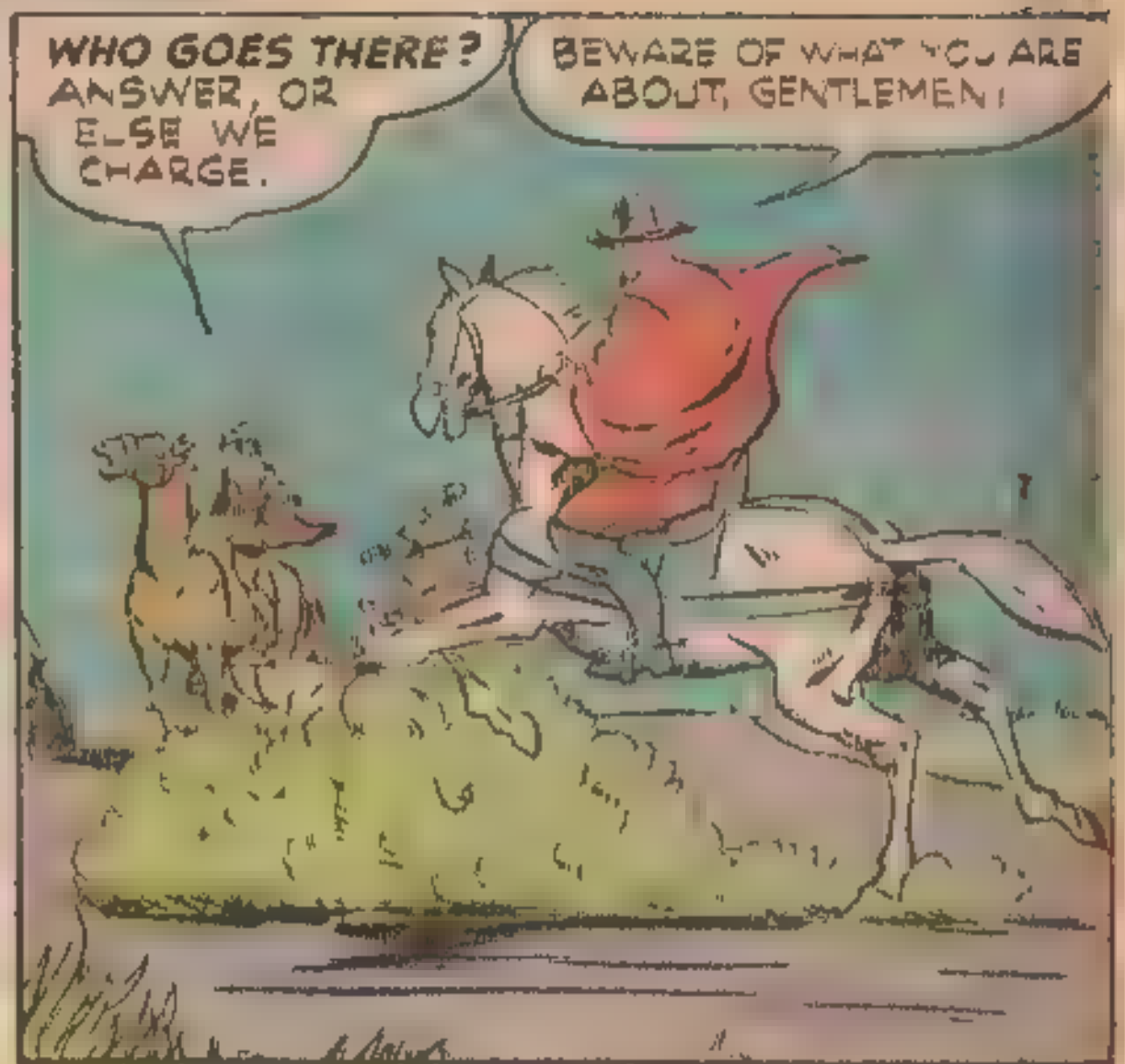
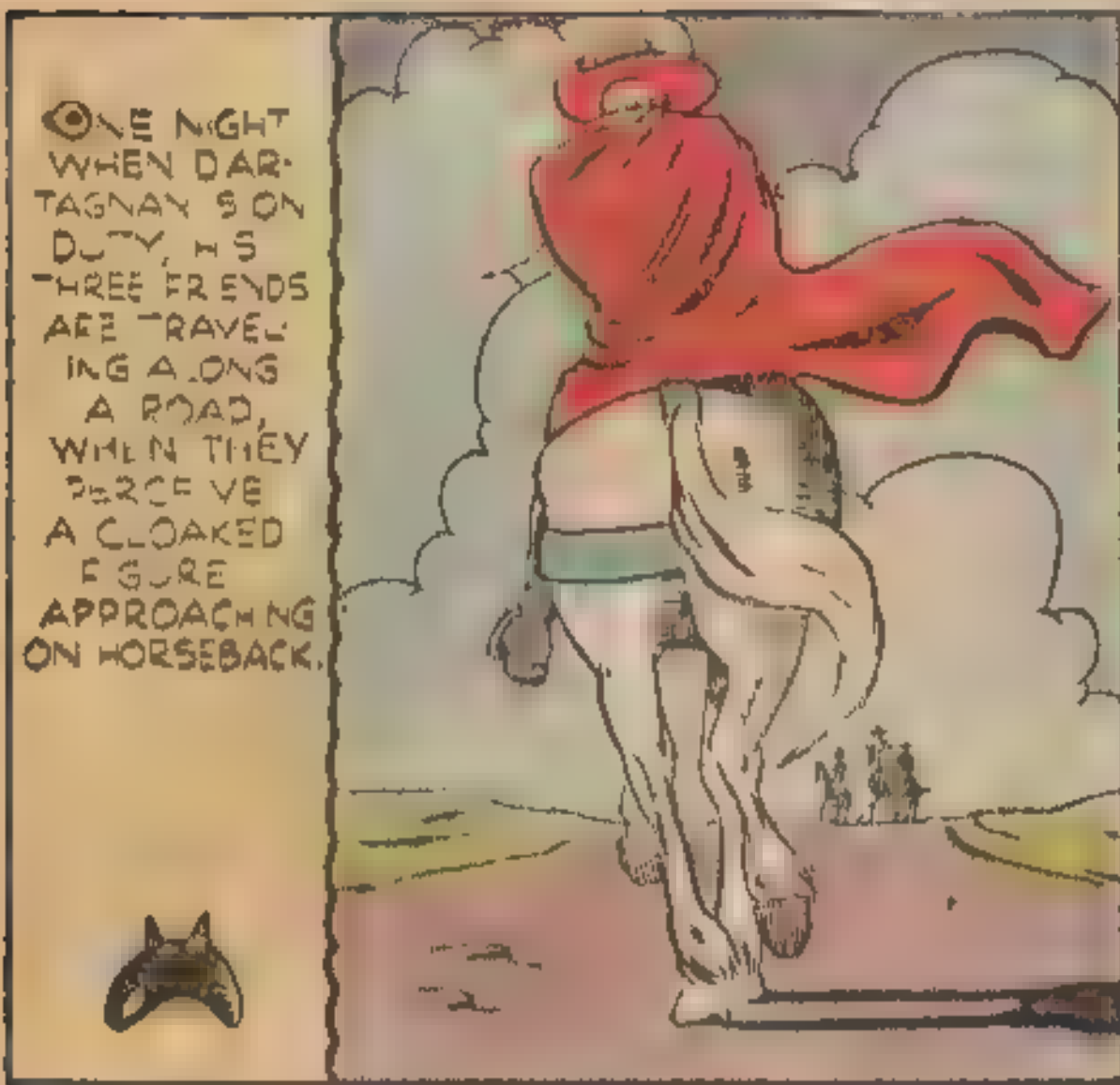


HE READS:

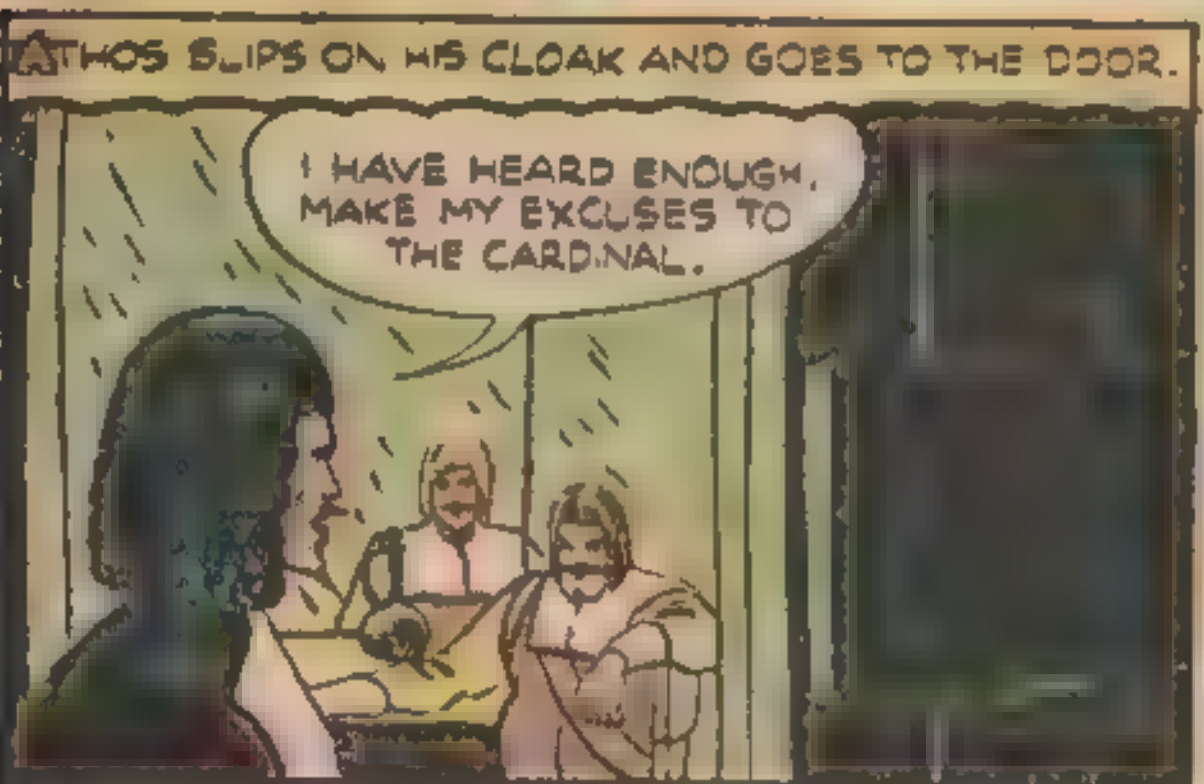
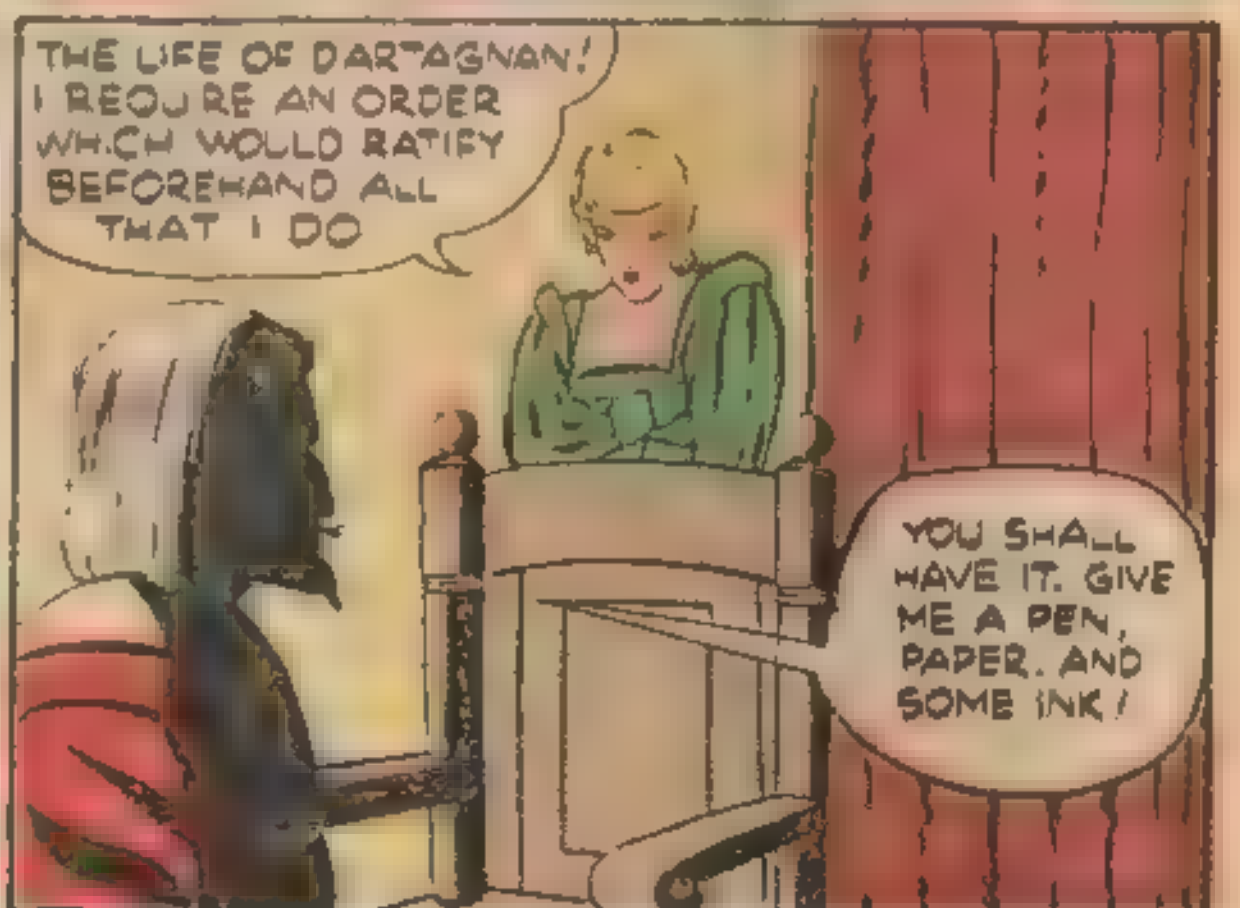
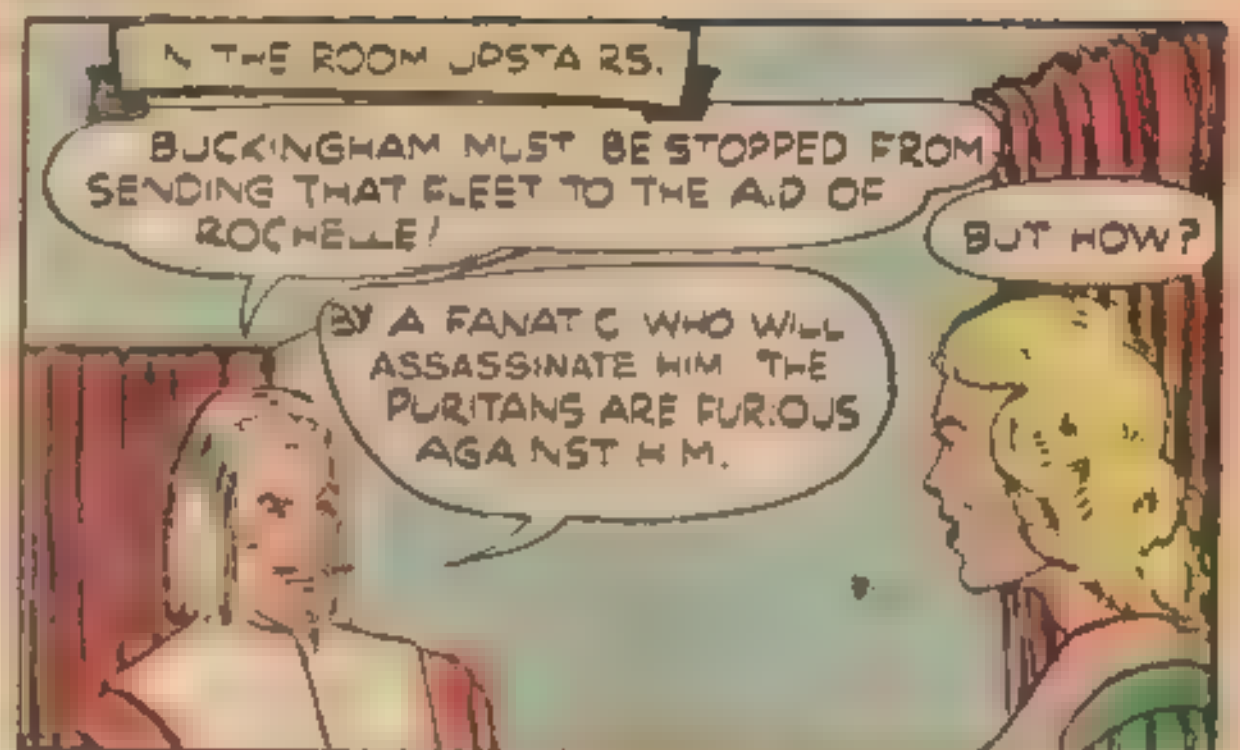
Since you have allowed the Bonacieux woman to escape to the convent of the Carmelites, do not fail to kill the man.

AH! MADAME BONACIEUX IS SAFE AND MILADY HAS FAILED AGAIN!





CLASSICS Illustrated



CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS OPENS HIS CLOAK AND LIFTS HIS HAT.



DO YOU KNOW ME, MADAME?

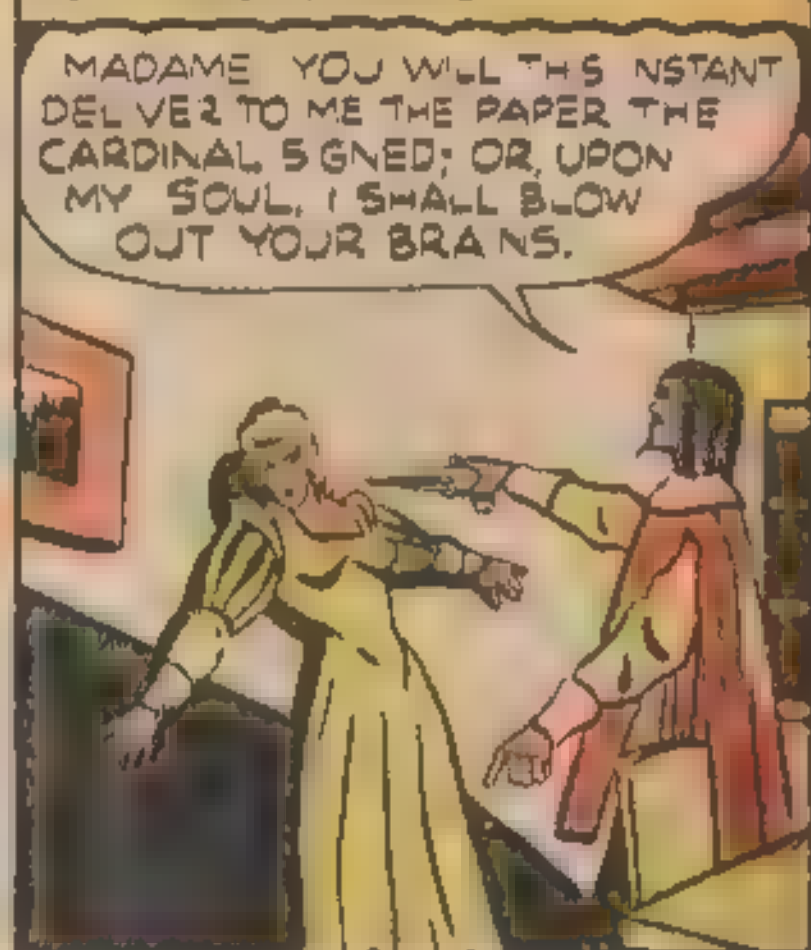
MILADY DRAWS BACK AS THOUGH SHE HAD SEEN A SERPENT.



THE COUNT DE LA FERRE!

YES, MILADY, THE COUNT DE LA FERRE, YOUR HUSBAND!

ATHOS SLOWLY RAISES HIS PISTOL TO MILADY'S HEAD.



MADAME YOU WILL THIS INSTANT DELIVER TO ME THE PAPER THE CARDINAL SIGNED; OR, UPON MY SOUL, I SHALL BLOW OUT YOUR BRANS.

MILADY REACHES HER HAND TO HER BOSOM AND DRAWS OUT THE PAPER.



TAKE IT, AND BE ACCURSED!

ATHOS READS

It is by my order, and for the good of the state, that the bearer of this has done what he has done.

DEC 3, 1627 Richelieu

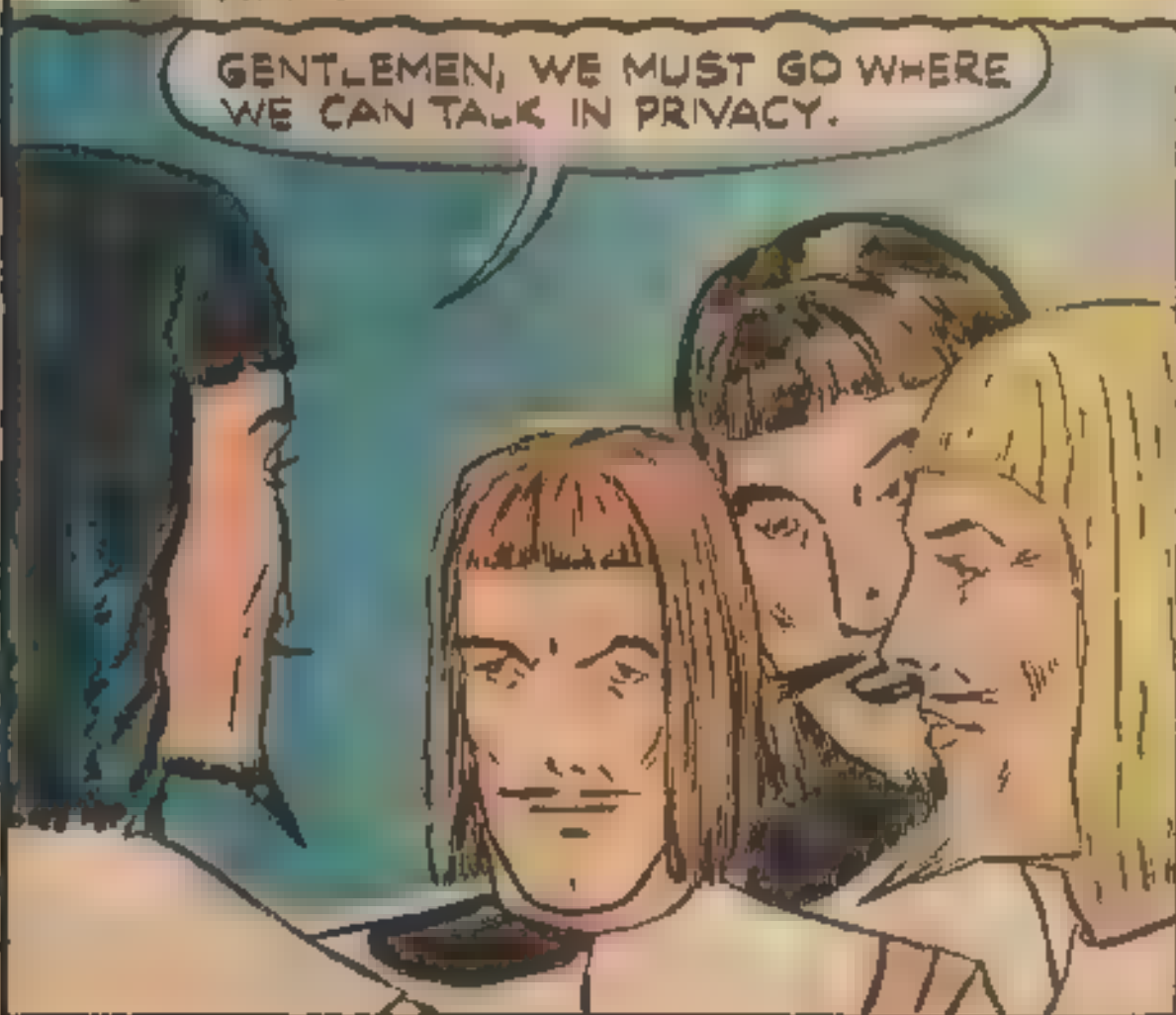
—AND NOW THAT I HAVE DRAWN YOUR TEETH, VIPER, BITE IF YOU CAN!



ATHOS LEAVES MILADY AND RIDES FURIOUSLY TO HIS QUARTERS.



THE NEXT MORNING, ATHOS HOLDS A COUNCIL OF WAR.



GENTLEMEN, WE MUST GO WHERE WE CAN TALK IN PRIVACY.

THEY ALL GO TO A SMALL HOTEL, BUT THE HOUR IS POORLY CHOSEN. THE PLACE IS FULL OF SOLDIERS.



CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS ARISES AND ADDRESSES THE ASSEMBLAGE.

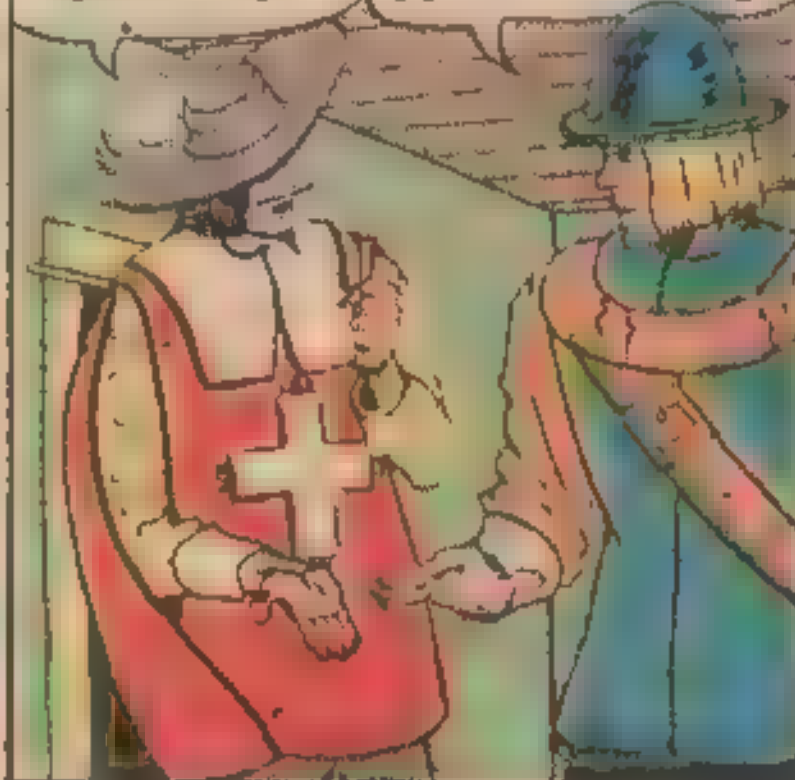
GENTLEMEN, I HAVE A WAGER TO PROPOSE!

AH! A WAGER, WHAT IS IT?



WILL BET THAT MY THREE COMPANIONS AND I WILL BREAKFAST IN YONDER BASTION WHICH IS BESIEGED BY THE ROCHELLAS AND REMAIN THERE AN HOUR!

CAPITAL! NOW LET US FIX THE STAKE



WHY WHEN WE RETURN, A DINNER FOR FOUR - WILL THAT DO?

PERFECTLY! WE ACCEPT



THE FOUR COMPANIONS, FOLLOWED BY GRIMAUD CARRYING THE BREAKFAST, SET OFF FOR THE BASTION.

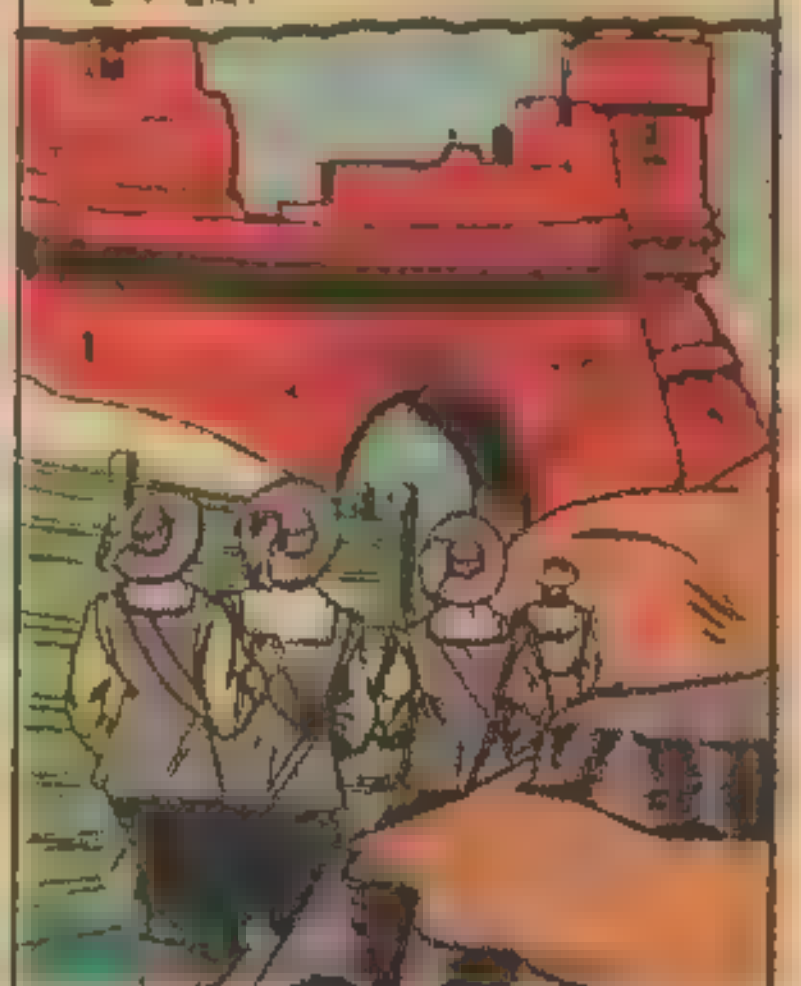


AND NOW MY DEAR ATHOS DO ME THE KINDNESS TO TELL ME WHY WE ARE DOING ALL THIS?

BECAUSE WE HAVE SOME VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WHICH THE CARDINAL MUST NOT KNOW



THEY ARRIVE AT THE BASTION, AND, PRECEDED BY GRIMAUD, ENTER.



THE BASTION IS OCCUPIED BY A DOZEN DEAD BODIES FRENCH AND ROCHELLAS.

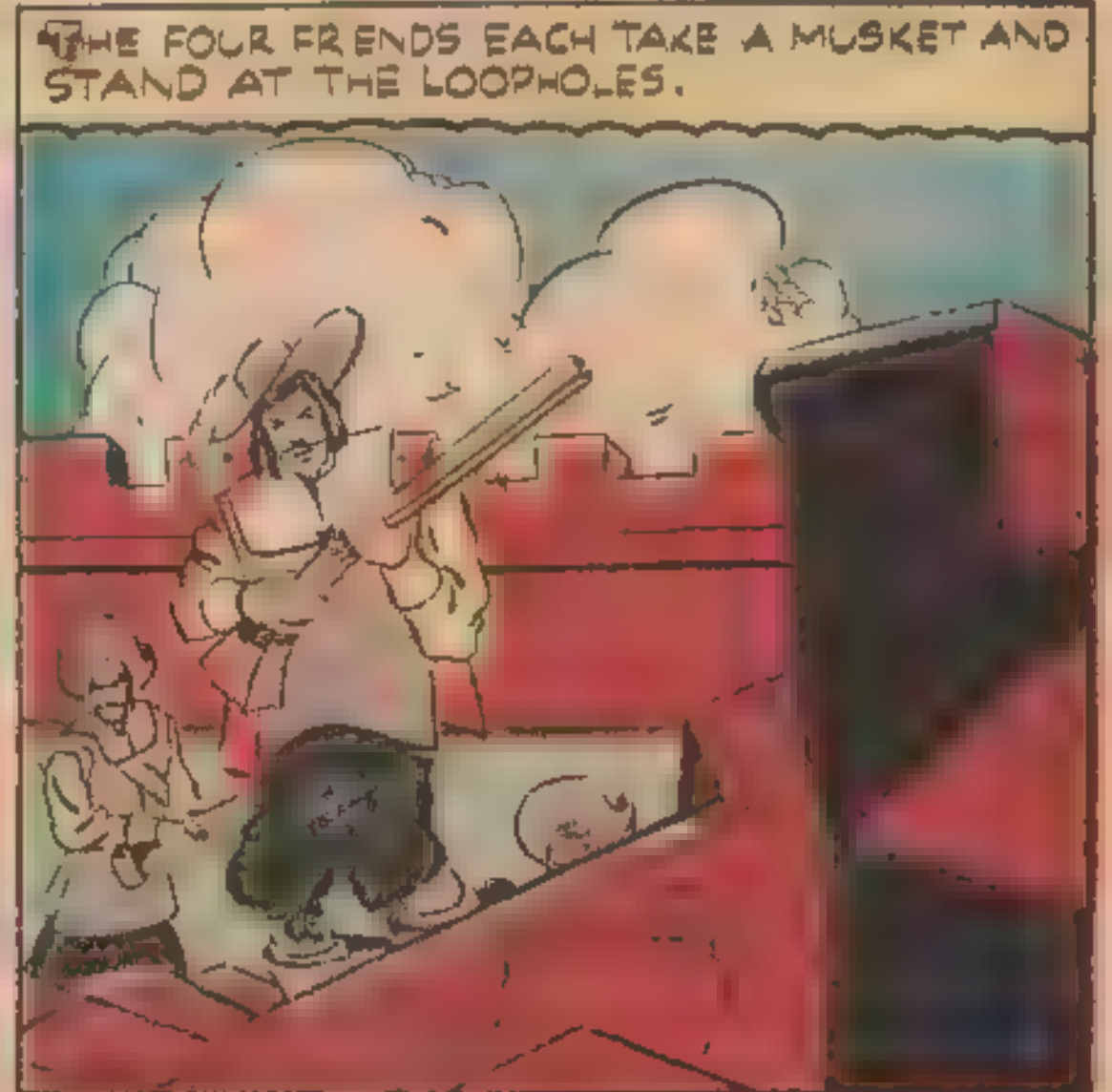


WHILE GRIMAUD IS LAYING OUT THE BREAKFAST, LET US COLLECT THE CARTRIDGES AND RELOAD THESE GUNS!

BUT THE SECRET! THE SECRET!



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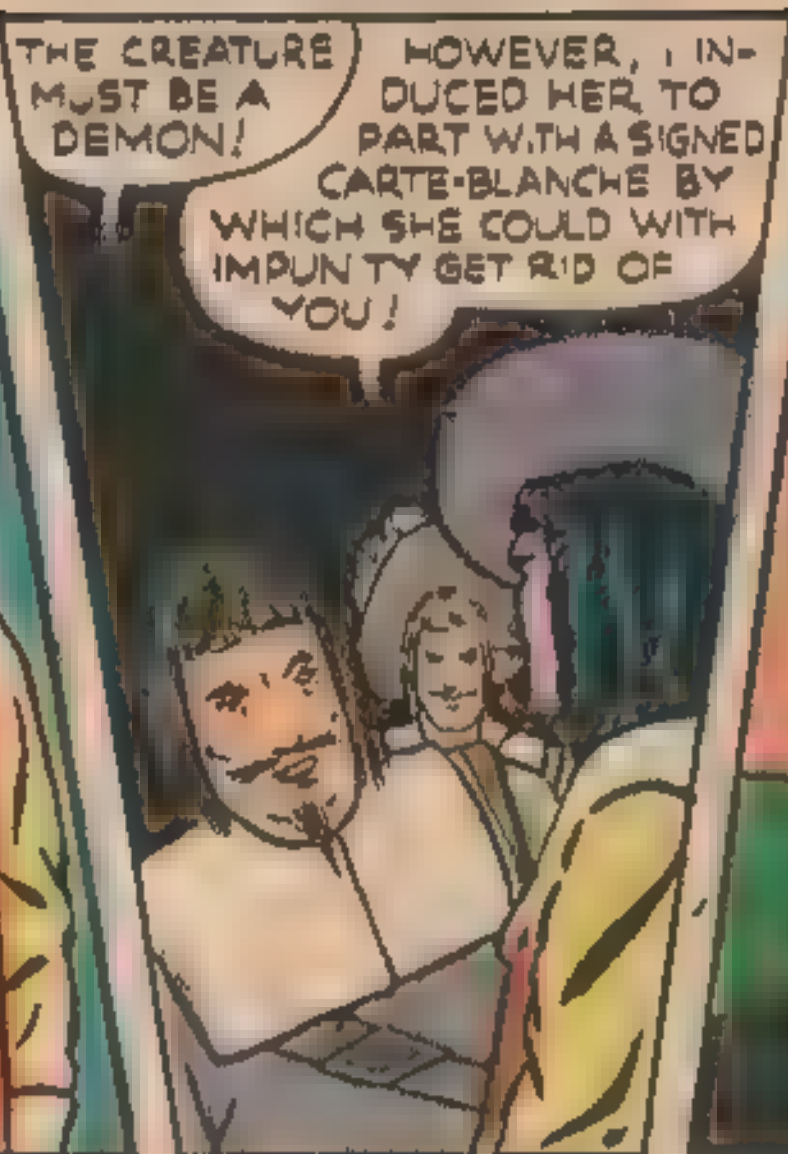


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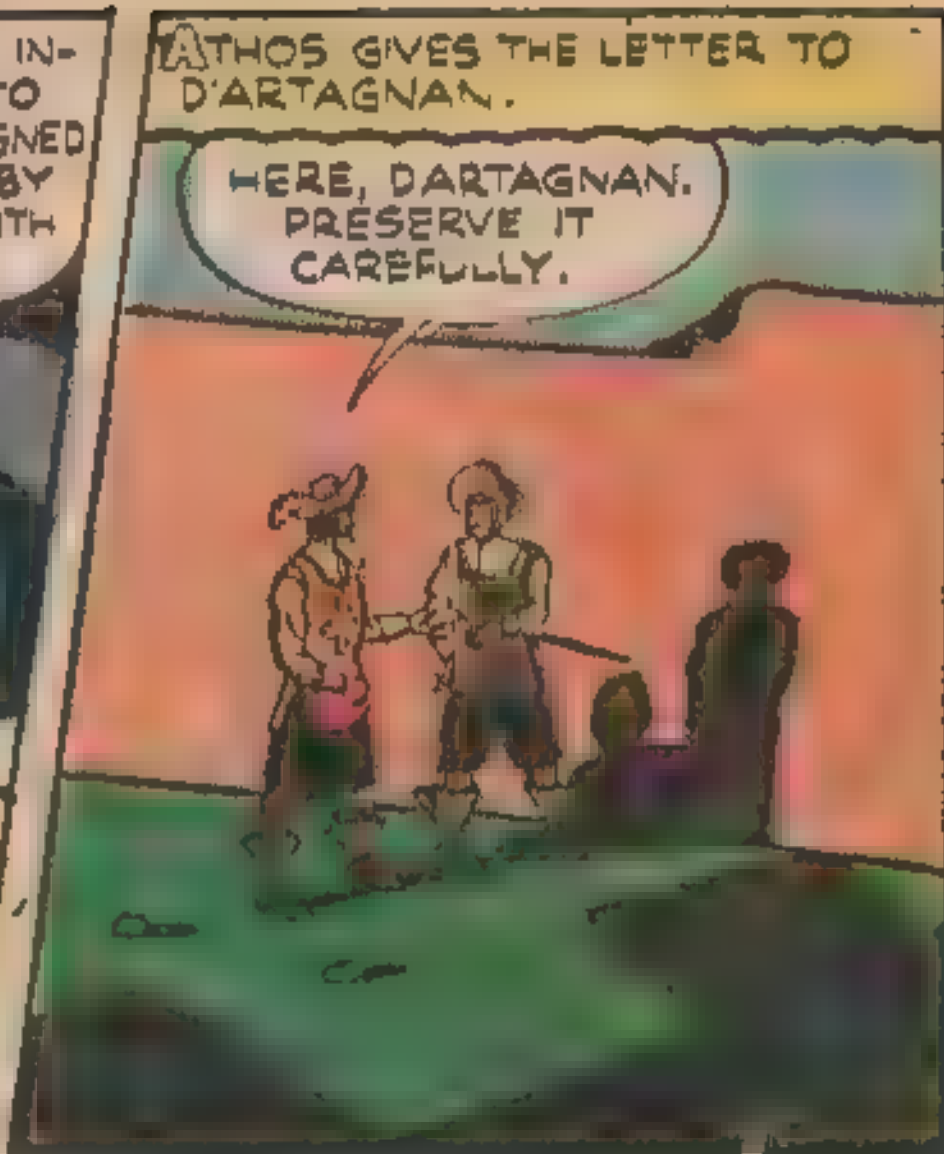
YOU WERE SAYING?

MILADY IS GOING TO ENGLAND TO ASSASSINATE OR CAUSE TO BE ASSASSINATED THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM!



THE CREATURE MUST BE A DEMON!

HOWEVER, I INDUCED HER TO PART WITH A SIGNED CARTE-BLANCHE BY WHICH SHE COULD WITH IMPUNITY GET RID OF YOU!



ATHOS GIVES THE LETTER TO D'ARTAGNAN.

HERE, DARTAGNAN. PRESERVE IT CAREFULLY.



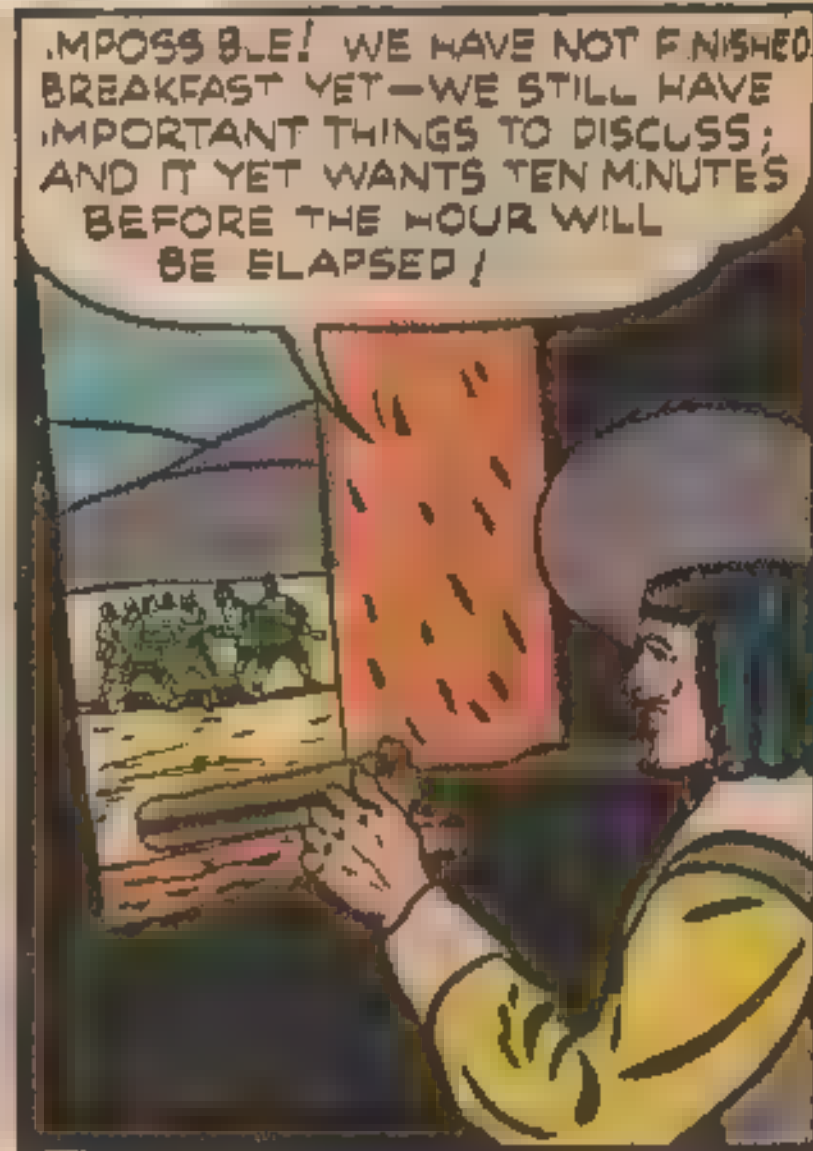
TO ARMS!

AT THIS CRY, THE YOUNG MEN SPRING UP AND TAKE THEIR MUSKETS.

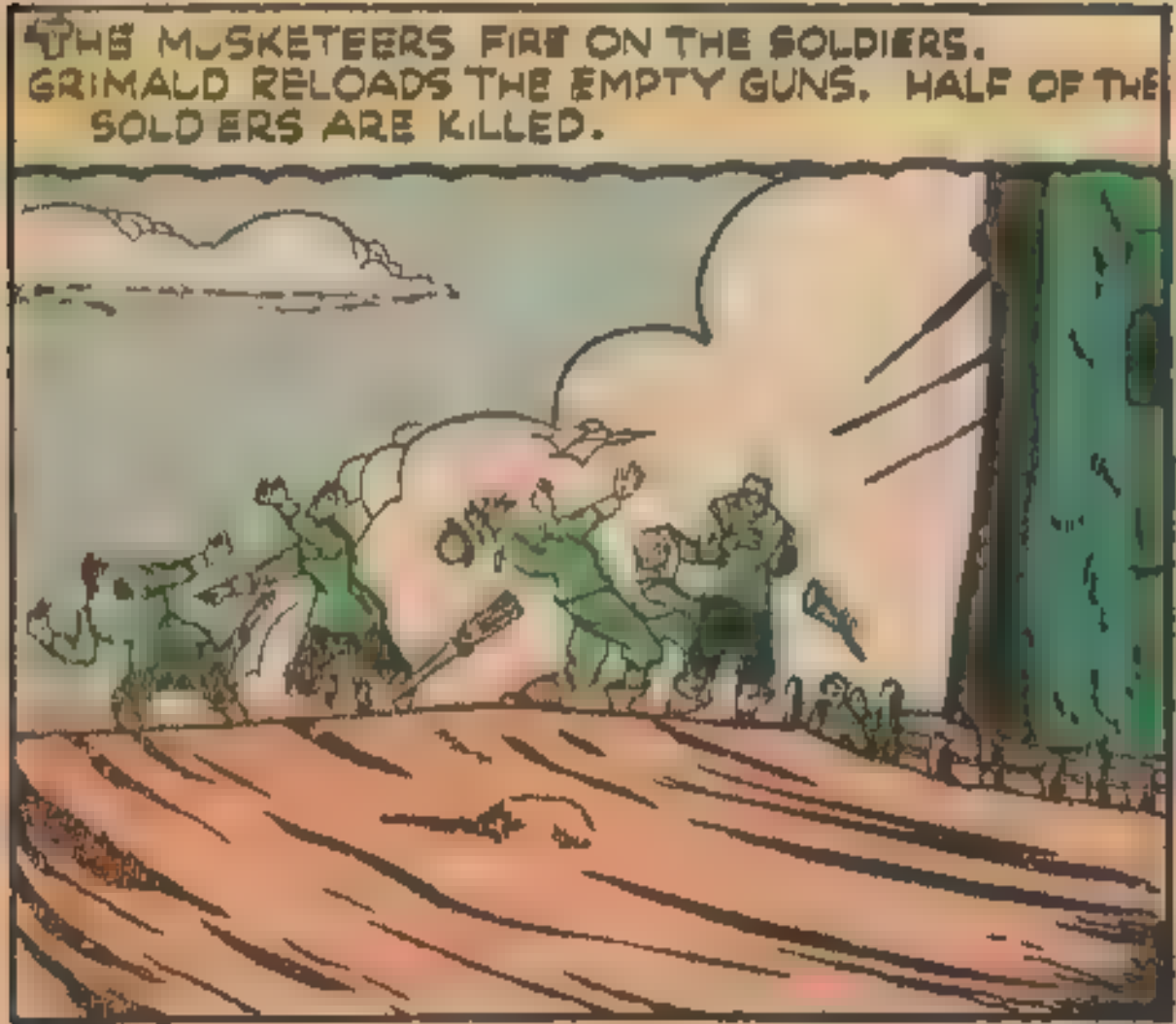


A TROOP OF TWENTY SOLDIERS IS SEEN ADVANCING ON THEM.

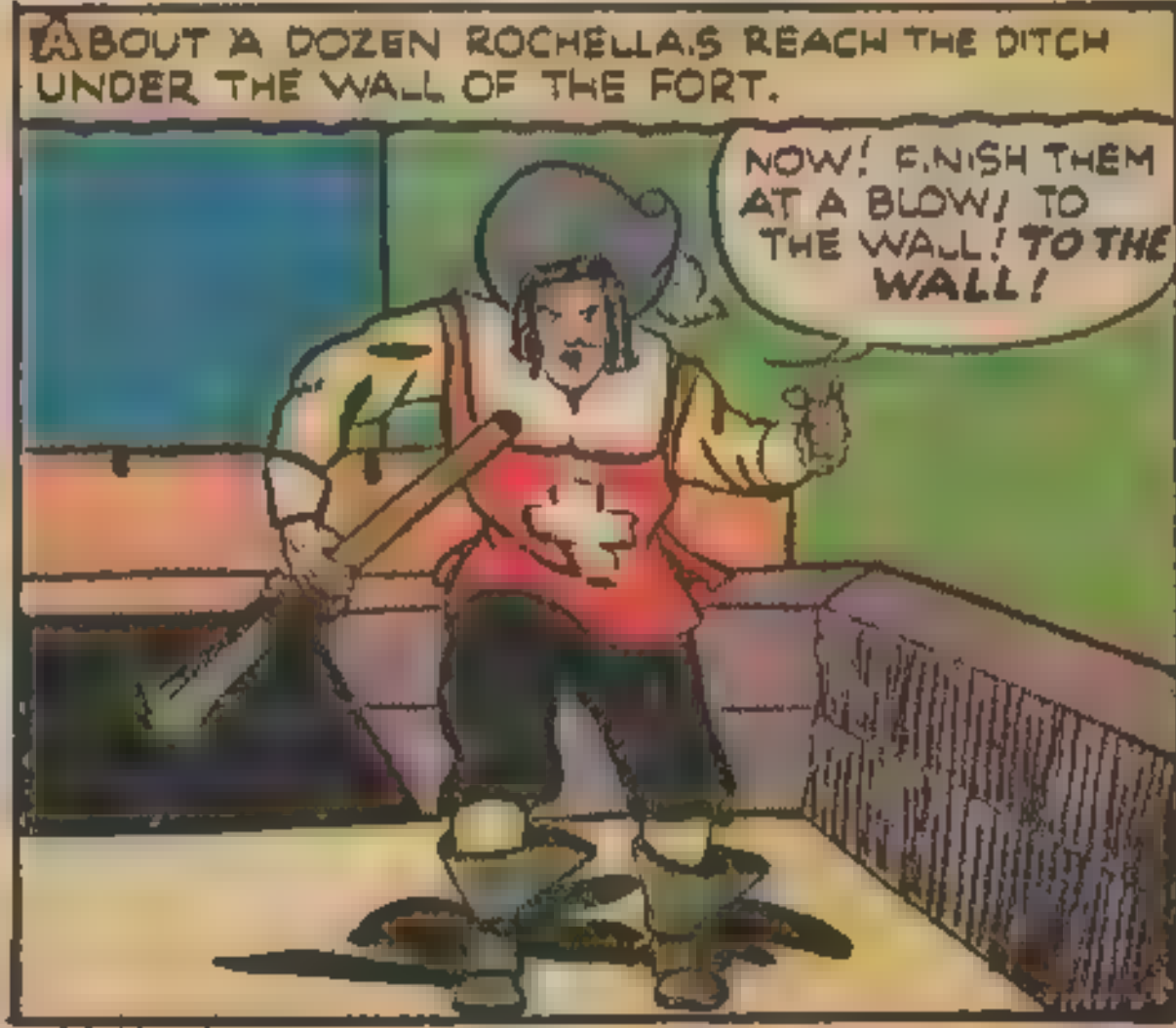
SHALL WE RETURN TO CAMP? I DON'T THINK THE SIDES ARE EQUAL!



IMPOSSIBLE! WE HAVE NOT FINISHED BREAKFAST YET—WE STILL HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS; AND IT YET WANTS TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE HOUR WILL BE ELAPSED!



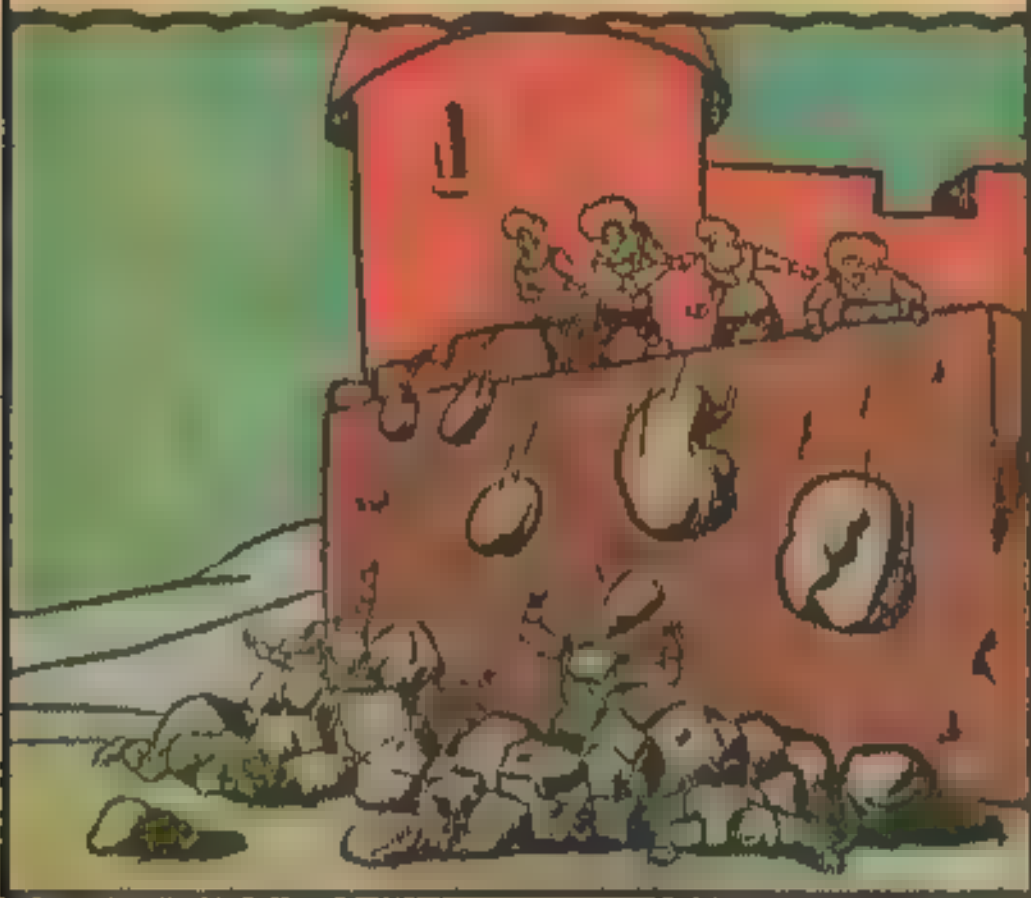
THE MUSKETEERS FIRE ON THE SOLDIERS. GRIMALD RELOADS THE EMPTY GUNS. HALF OF THE SOLDIERS ARE KILLED.



ABOUT A DOZEN ROCHELLAIS REACH THE DITCH UNDER THE WALL OF THE FORT.

NOW! FINISH THEM AT A BLOW! TO THE WALL! TO THE WALL!

THE FOUR MUSKETEERS, AIDED BY GRIMAUD, PUSH THE WALL WITH THEIR GUN BARRELS. IT SWAYS, THEN TOPPLES INTO THE DITCH.



MA TOI! WE HAVE DESTROYED THEM 'ALL!

IT APPEARS SO. NOW LET US RESUME OUR CONVERSATION!



THEY SIT DOWN AGAIN TO BREAKFAST.

WE MUST WARN LORD DE WINTER OF MILADY'S INTENTIONS.



BUT HOW?

I WILL SEND PLANCHET TO LONDON WITH A LETTER!



WHAT IS THAT NOISE?

WHY, THEY ARE SENDING A WHOLE REGIMENT AGAINST US. WE SHALL BE KILLED!



ATHOS POINTS TO THE DEAD SOLDIERS

GRIMAUD, TAKE THESE GENTLEMEN SET THEM UP AGAINST THE WALL AND PUT GUNS IN THEIR HANDS!



QUICKLY! DID YOU TALK OF A REGIMENT, PORTHOS? IT IS AN ARMY!



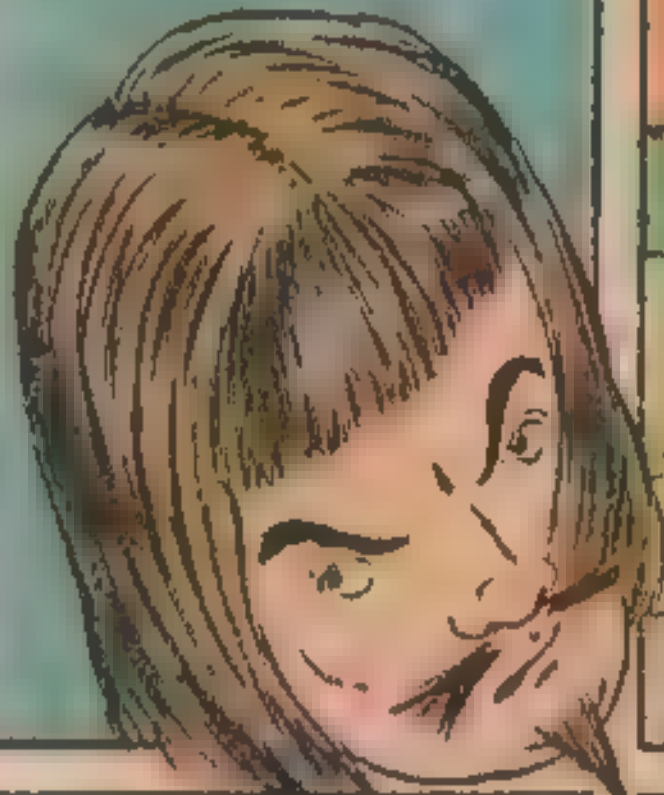
THE BODIES ARE SET AGAINST THE LOOPHOLES, WITH THE GUNS POINTING OUT.

NOW, GENTLEMEN, LET US BE OFF!



A FURIOUS VOLLEY IS HEARD.

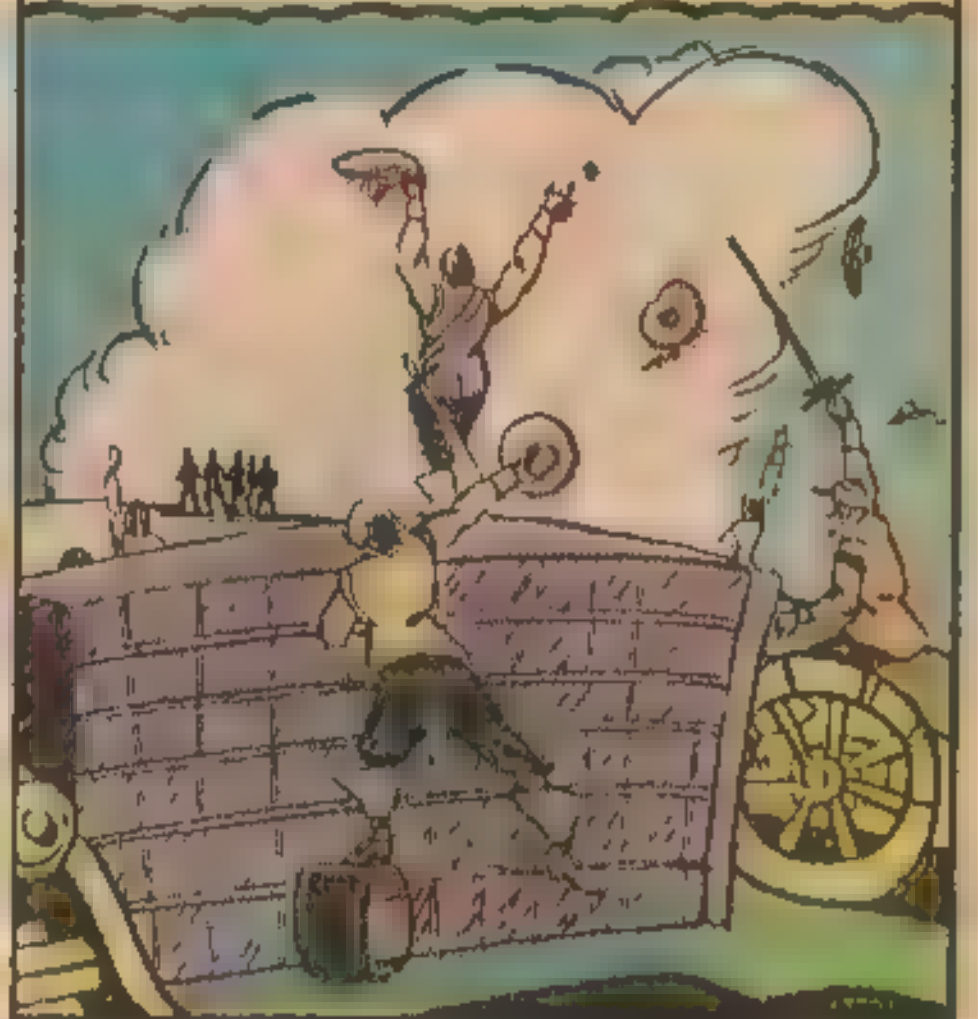
WHAT ARE THEY FIRING AT NOW? I HEAR NO BALLS WHISTLING BY!



THEY ARE FIRING AT GRIMAUD'S DEAD COMPANY AND BY THE TIME THEY FIND OUT THE TRICK, WE SHALL BE SAFELY BACK.



THE FRENCH, ON SEEING THE RECOMRADES RETURN, CHEER WILDLY.



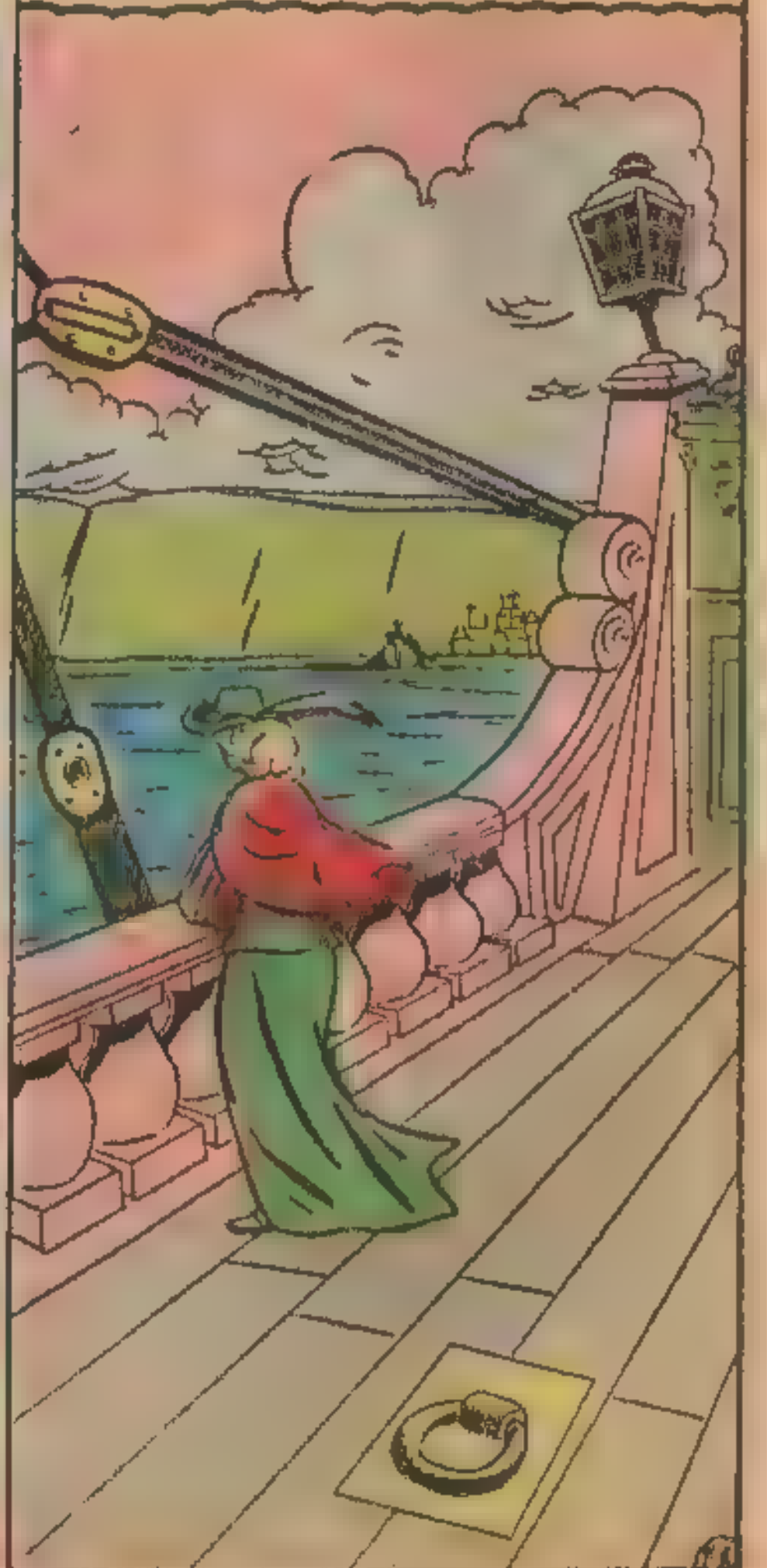
THAT NIGHT, PLANCHET SETS OUT FOR LONDON WITH A LETTER TO DE WINTER.



AFTER SIXTEEN DAYS PLANCHET RETURNS WITH A NOTE FROM DE WINTER. IT READS "THANK YOU. BE EASY."



MEANWHILE MILADY, ABOARD A SLOOP, ARRIVES AT THE ENGLISH PORT OF PORTSMOUTH. A LITTLE CUTTER DRAWS ALONGSIDE.

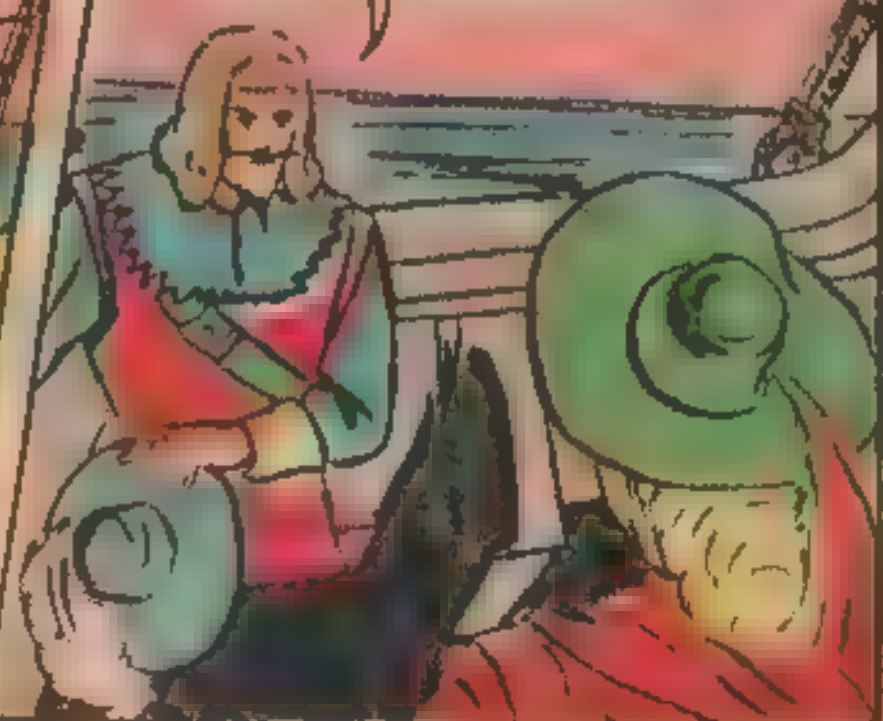


AN OFFICER FROM THE CUTTER BOARDS THE VESSEL AND TALKS TO THE CAPTAIN.



THE OFFICER APPROACHES MILADY.

I AM AN OFFICER IN THE ENGLISH NAVY. PLEASE COME WITH ME.

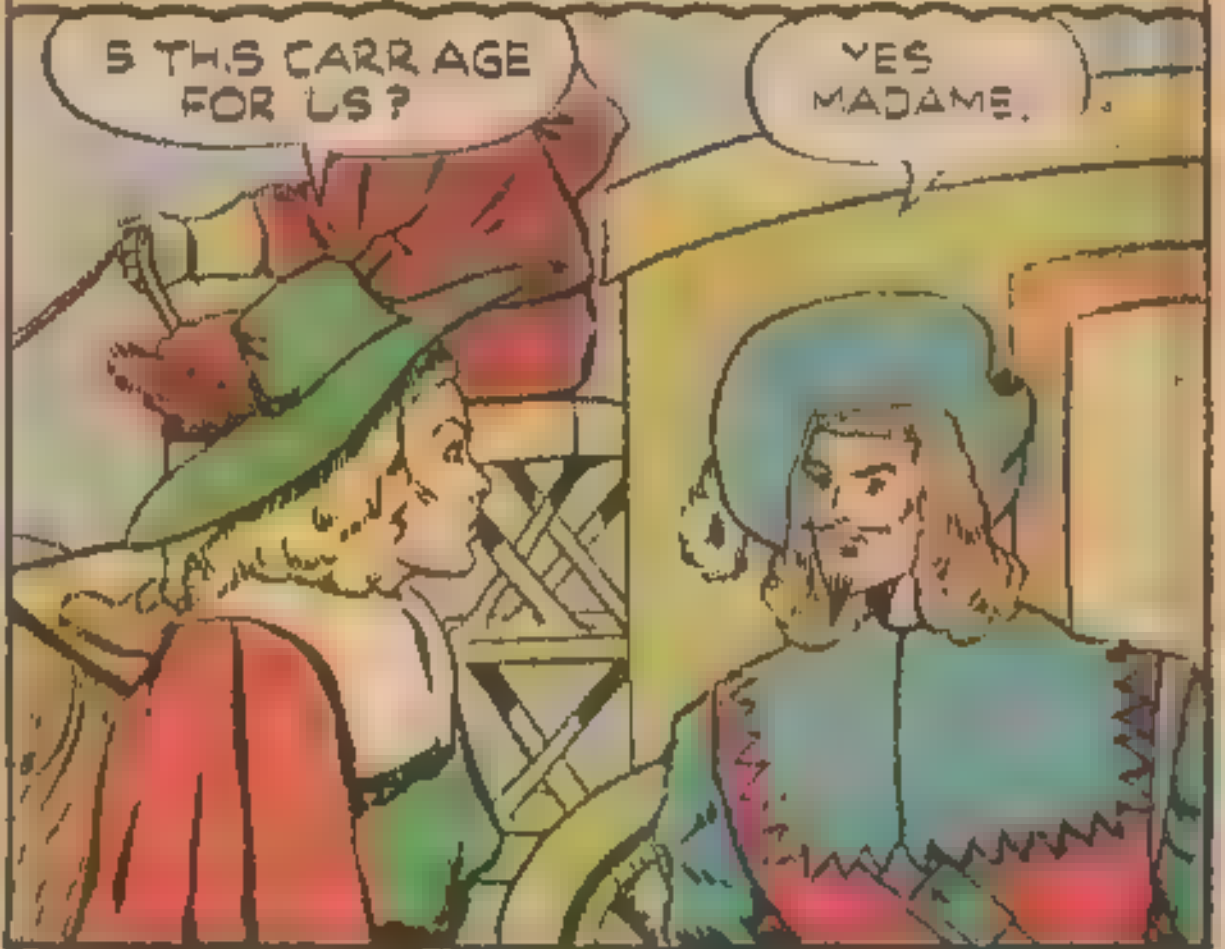


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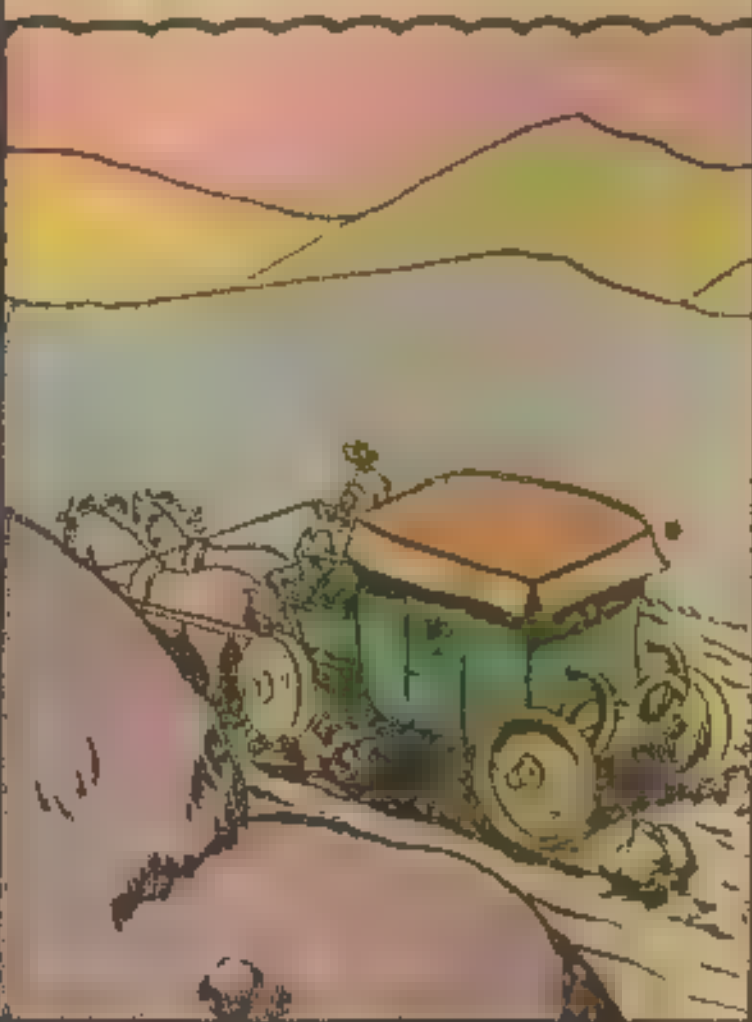
MILADY IS TAKEN ABOARD THE CUTTER AND BROUGHT TO SHORE.



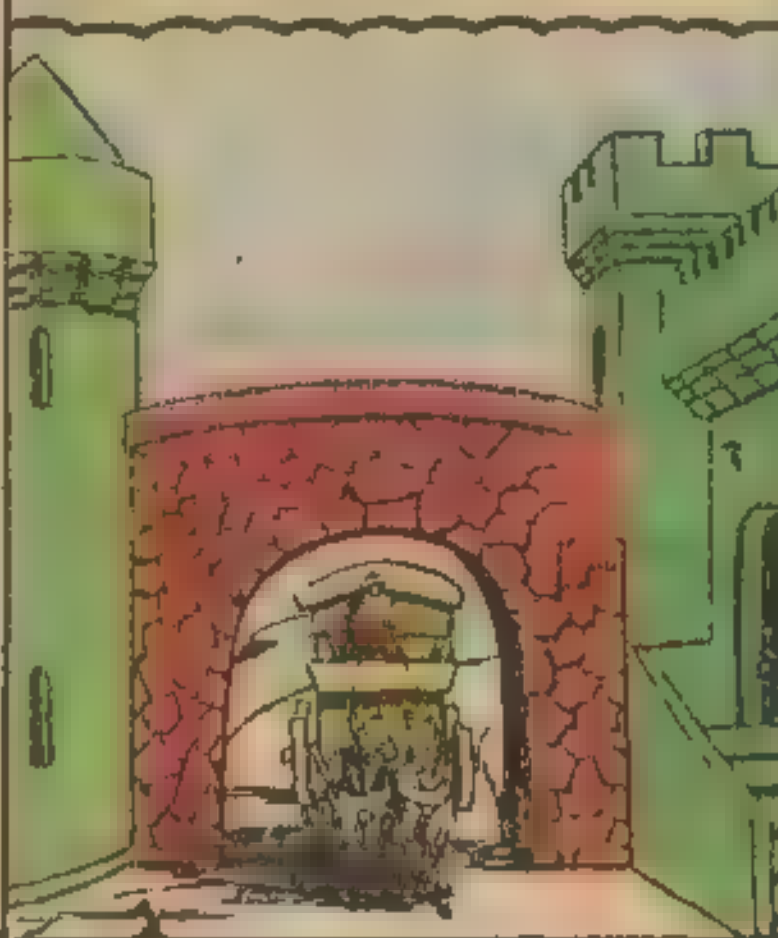
THE OFFICER SPRINGS OUT AND HELPS MILADY ALIGHT. A CARRIAGE IS WAITING.



THEY GET INTO THE CARRIAGE AND ARE DRIVEN AWAY.



AT LENGTH, THE CARRIAGE ENTERS THE COURTYARD OF AN OLD CASTLE PERCHED ON A CLIFF BY THE SEA.



THE OFFICER HELPS MILADY FROM THE CARRIAGE.



THE OFFICER LEADS MILADY INTO A CHAMBER WITH DOORS AND WINDOWS BARRED.

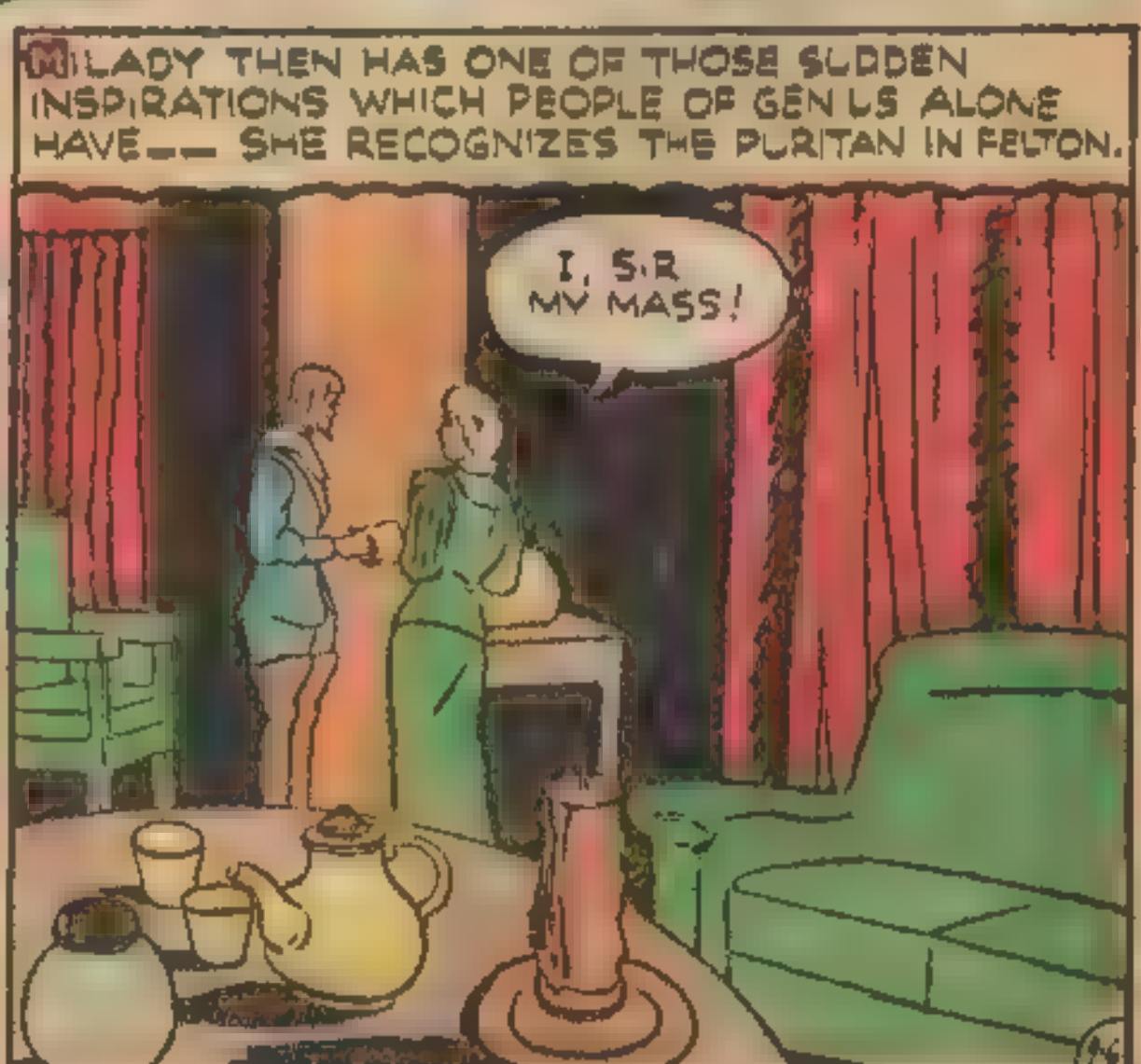
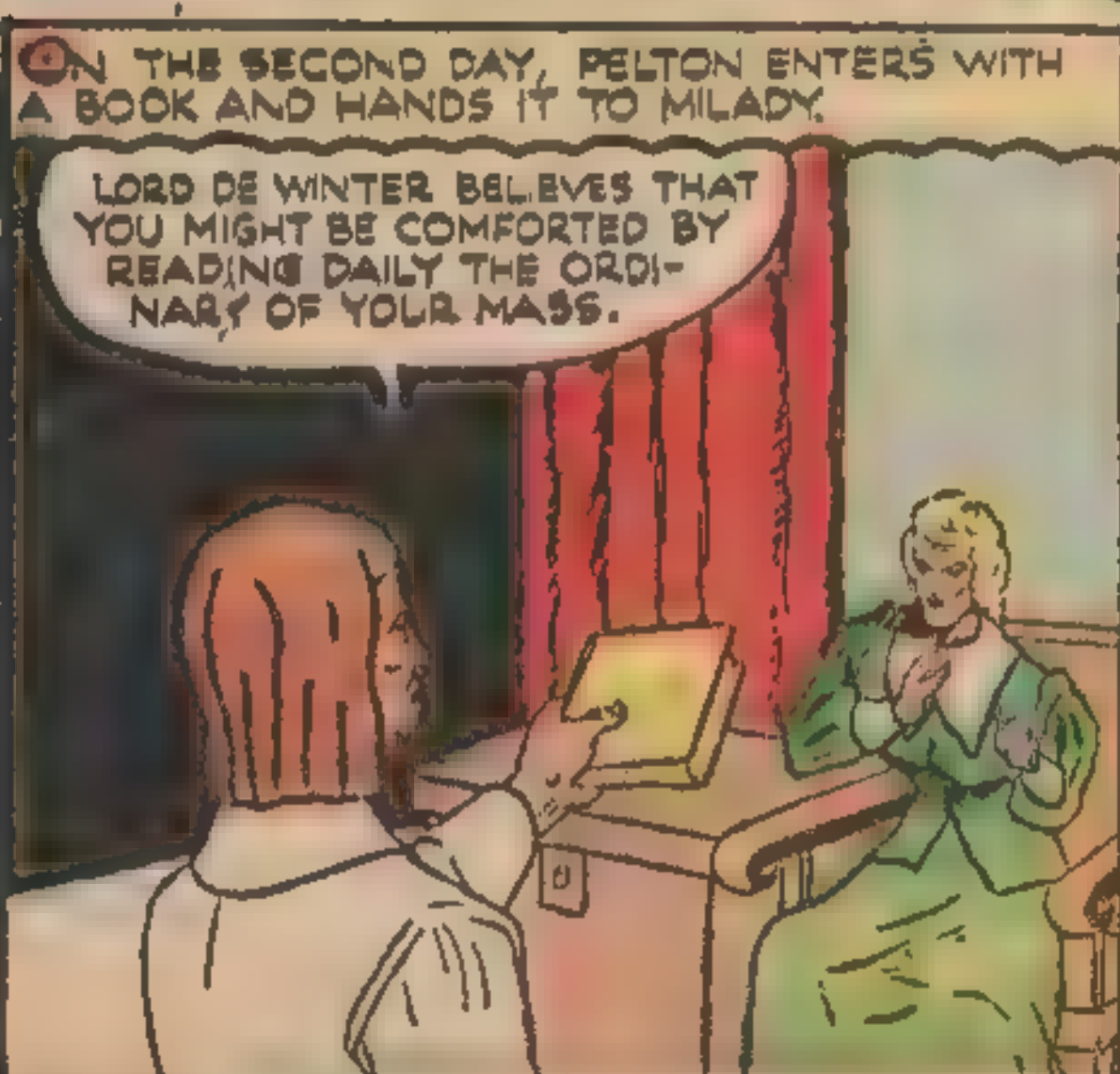
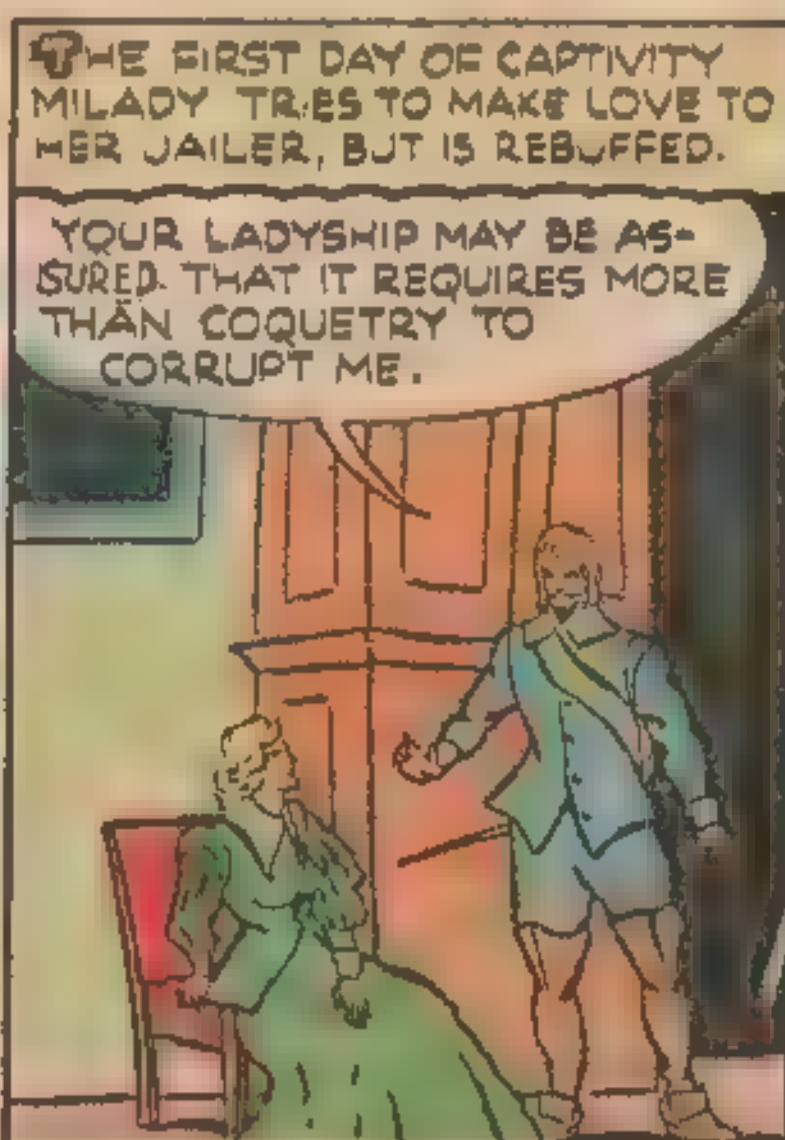
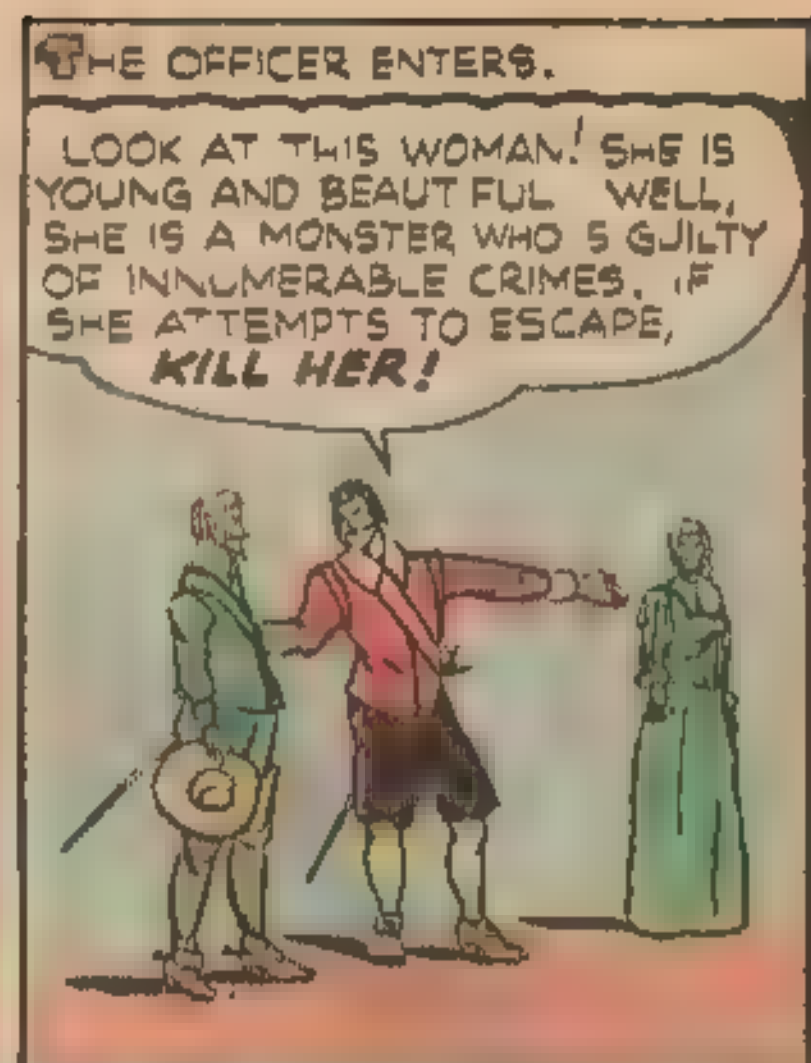


MY DUTY IS DONE. THE REST CONCERNS ANOTHER PERSON. HERE HE IS NOW.

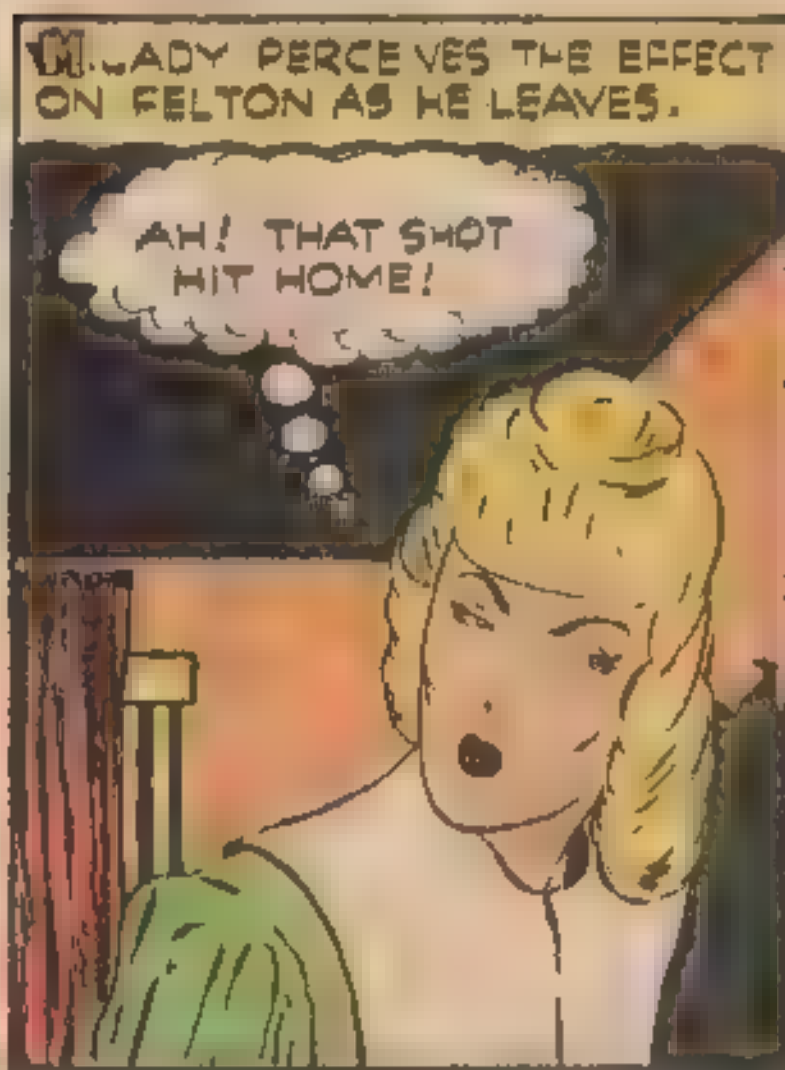
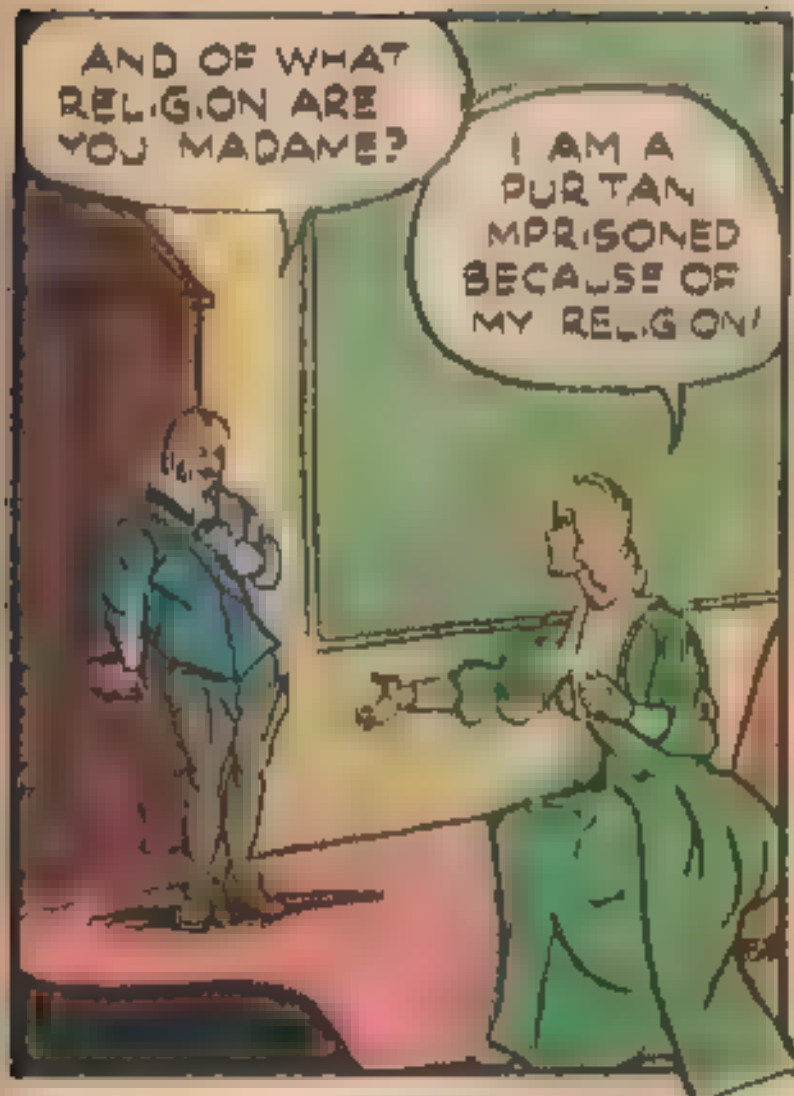


LORD DE WINTER ENTERS

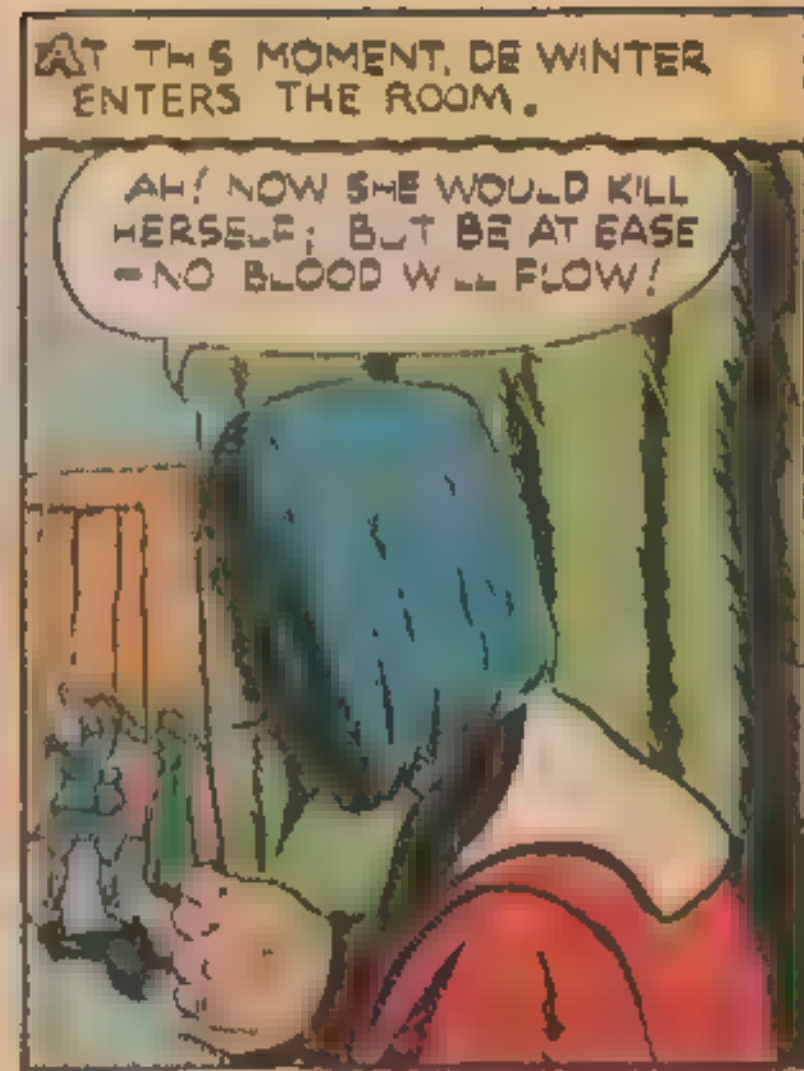




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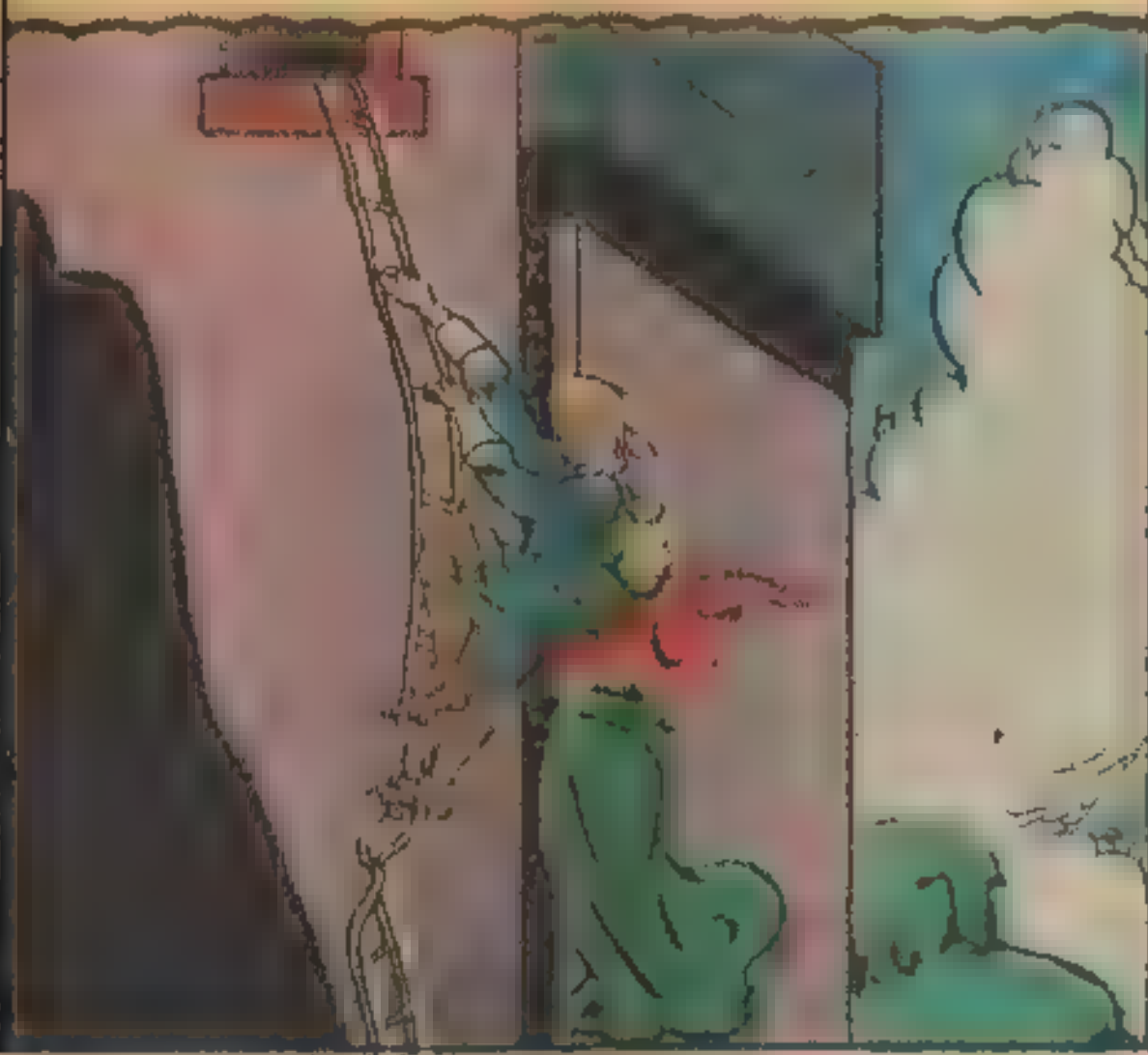


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AFTER PRYING LOOSE THE BARRED WINDOW, FELTON LETS HIMSELF AND MILADY DOWN A ROPE TO THE ROCKY SHORE BELOW.



AT FELTON'S WHISTLE, A BOAT APPEARS, ROWED BY FOUR MEN. MILADY AND FELTON GET IN.



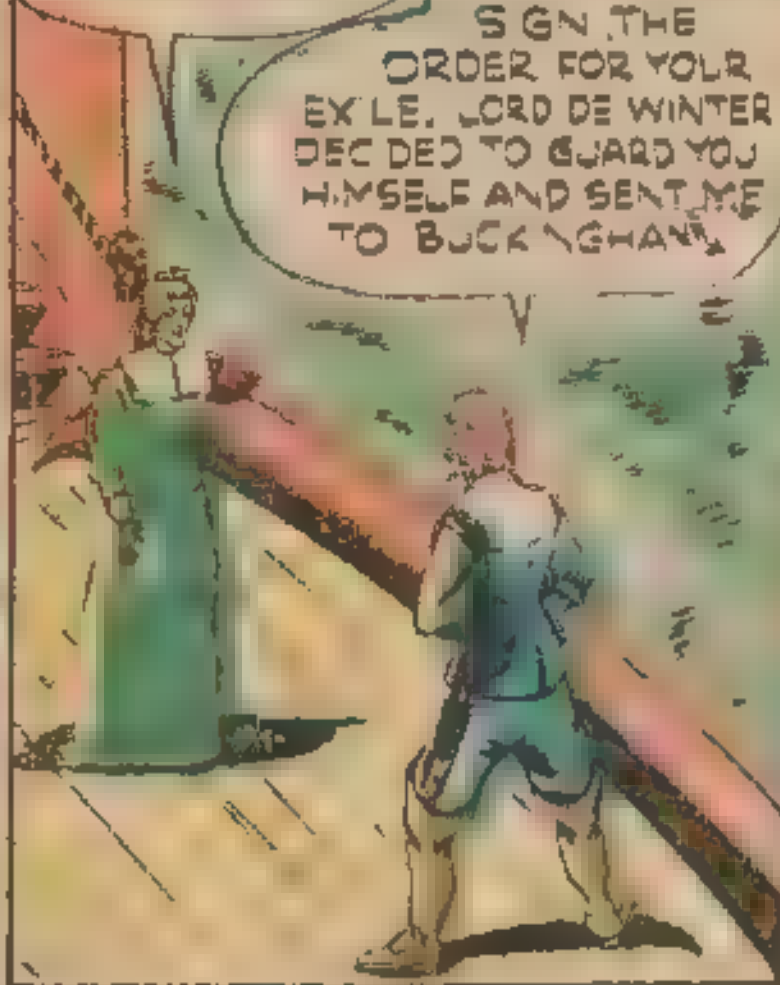
IN A FEW MINUTES THEY ARE ABOARD THE SLOOP.

THE CAPTAIN WILL TAKE YOU TO FRANCE AFTER HE HAS PUT ME ASHORE AT PORTSMOUTH.



WHAT ARE YOU TO DO IN PORTSMOUTH?

HAVE BUCKINGHAM SIGN THE ORDER FOR YOUR EXILE. LORD DE WINTER DECIDED TO GUARD YOU HIMSELF AND SENT ME TO BUCKINGHAM.



WHEN THE SLOOP REACHES PORTSMOUTH, FELTON BIDS ADIEU TO MILADY.

LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE. DO NOT FAIL!



FELTON DISEMBARKS AND GOES TO THE PALACE OF THE ADMIRALTY.



PATRICK, THE DUKE'S VALET, ADMITS FELTON TO BUCKINGHAM'S CHAMBER.

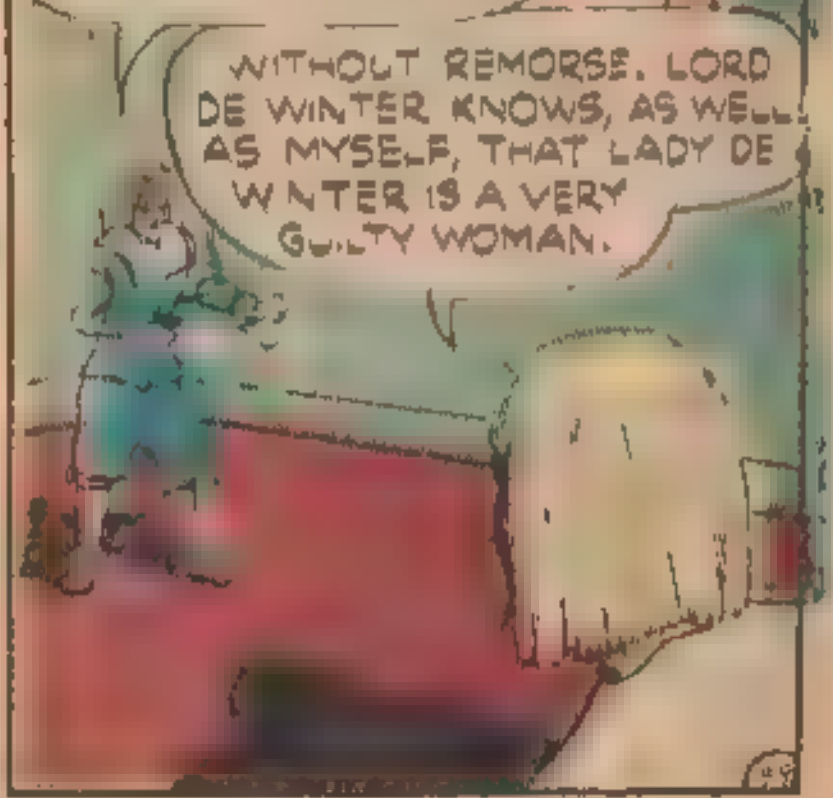
HAVE AN ORDER RELATIVE TO THE COUNTESS DE WINTER.

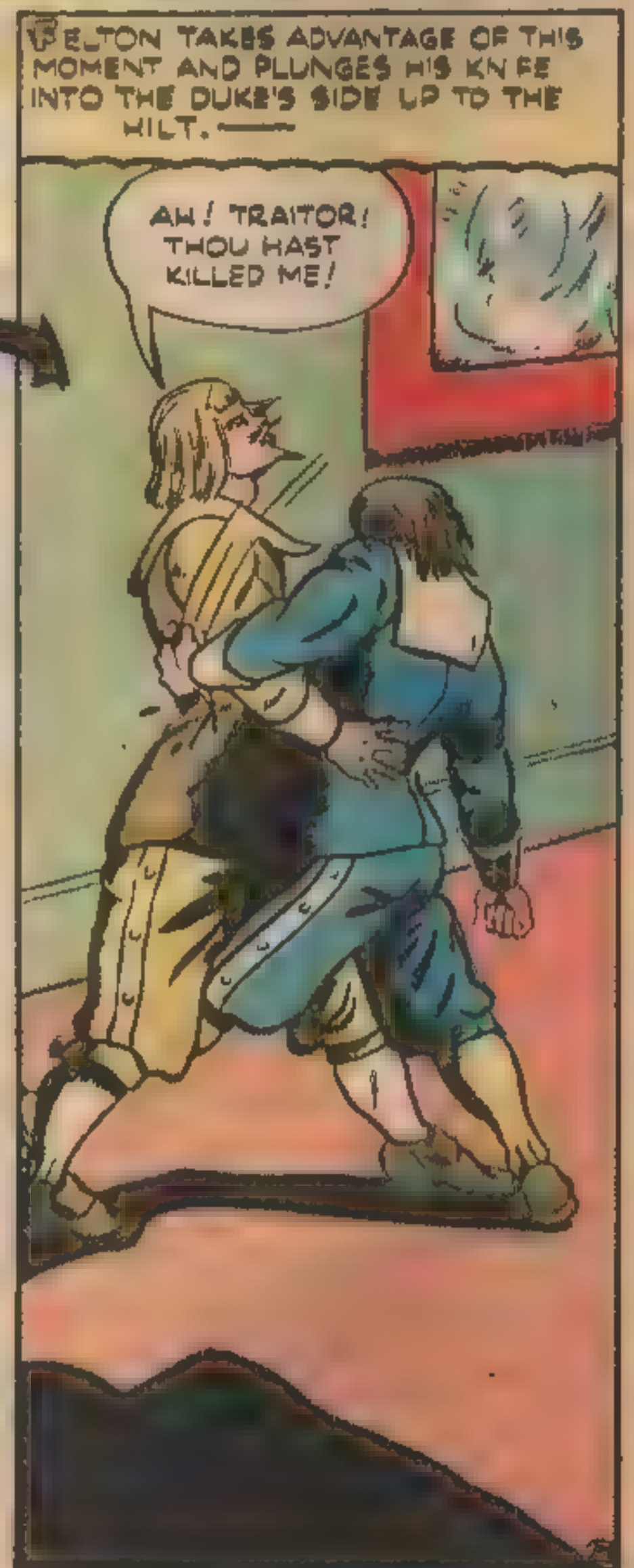
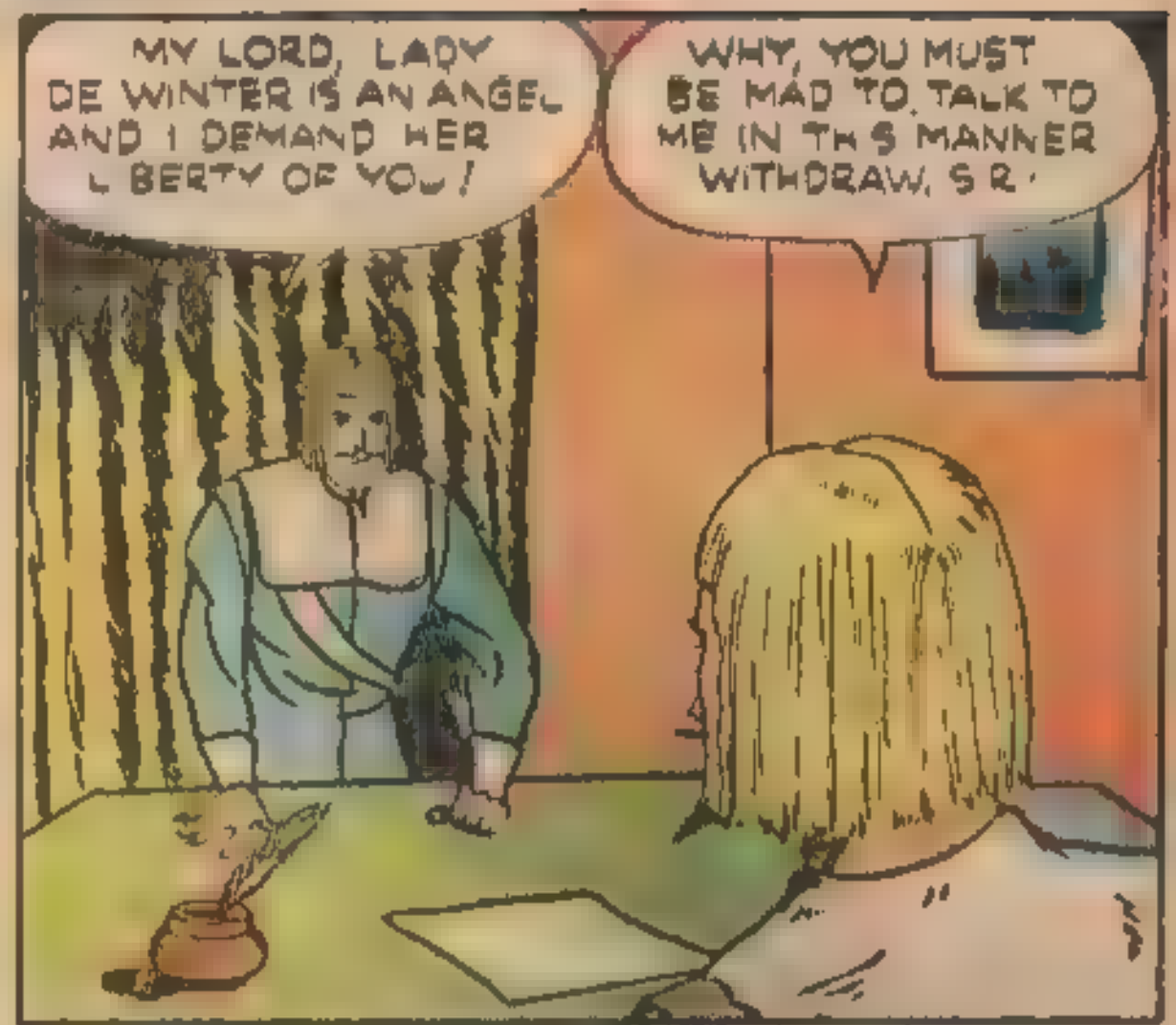
GIVE - TO ME



WILL YOUR GRACE SIGN THAT ORDER WITHOUT REMORSE?

WITHOUT REMORSE. LORD DE WINTER KNOWS, AS WELL AS MYSELF, THAT LADY DE WINTER IS A VERY GUILTY WOMAN.





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MEANWHILE, THE DUKE IS CARRIED TO A COUCH BY PATRICK. THE DUKE'S SURGEON ENTERS AND EXAMINES H.M.



ALL IS USELESS.
HE IS DEAD!

LORD DE WINTER APPROACHES FELTON.

MISERABLE WRETCH!
I SWEAR TO YOU THAT
YOUR ACCOMPLICE
IS NOT SAVED!

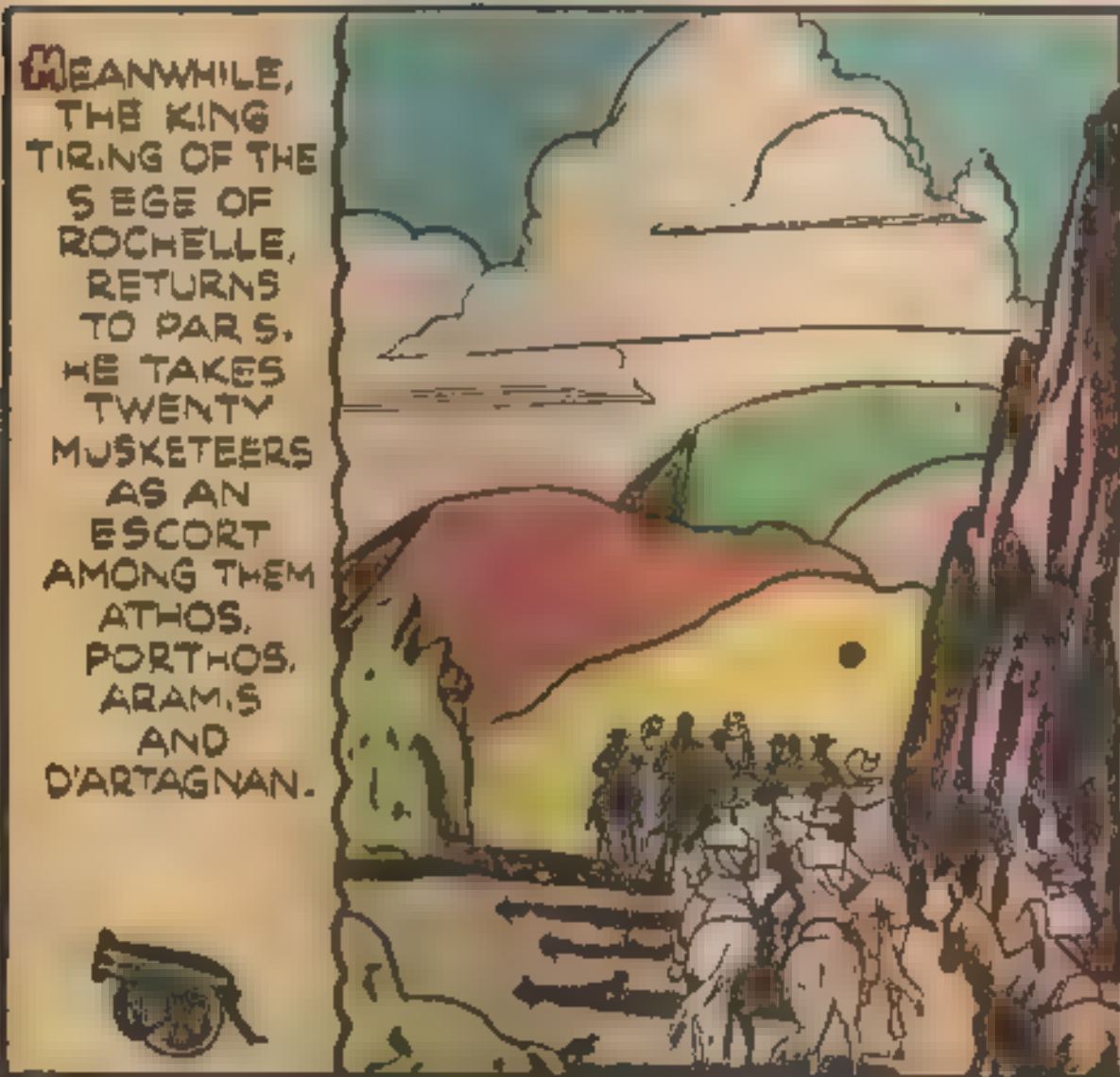


GOD HAS
SO WILLED IT!

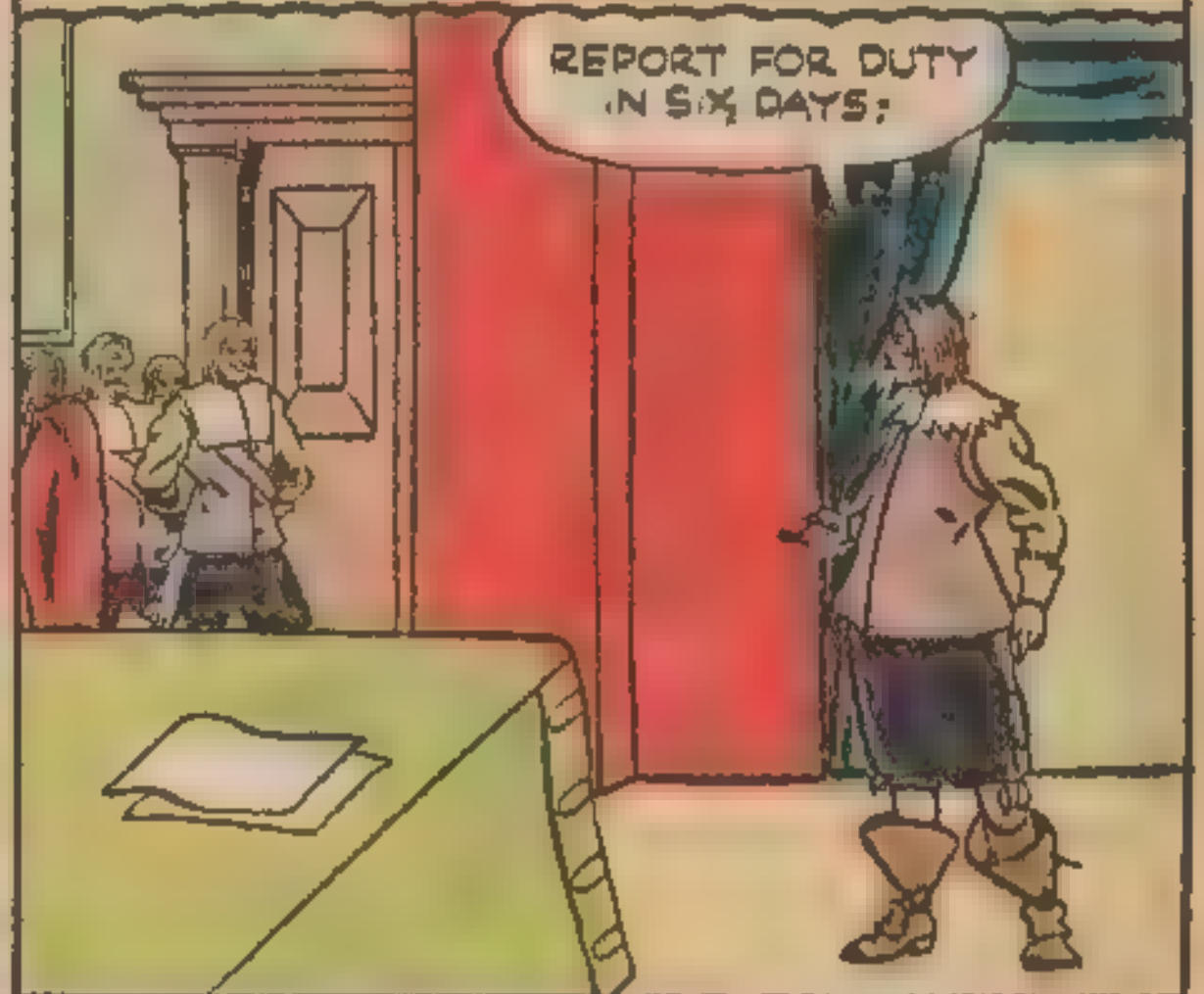
LORD DE WINTER DESCENDS THE STAIRS AND MAKES STRAIGHT FOR THE PORT.



MEANWHILE, THE KING, TIRING OF THE SIEGE OF ROCHELLE, RETURNS TO PARIS. HE TAKES TWENTY MUSKETEERS AS AN ESCORT. AMONG THEM ATHOS, PORTHOS, ARAMIS AND D'ARTAGNAN.

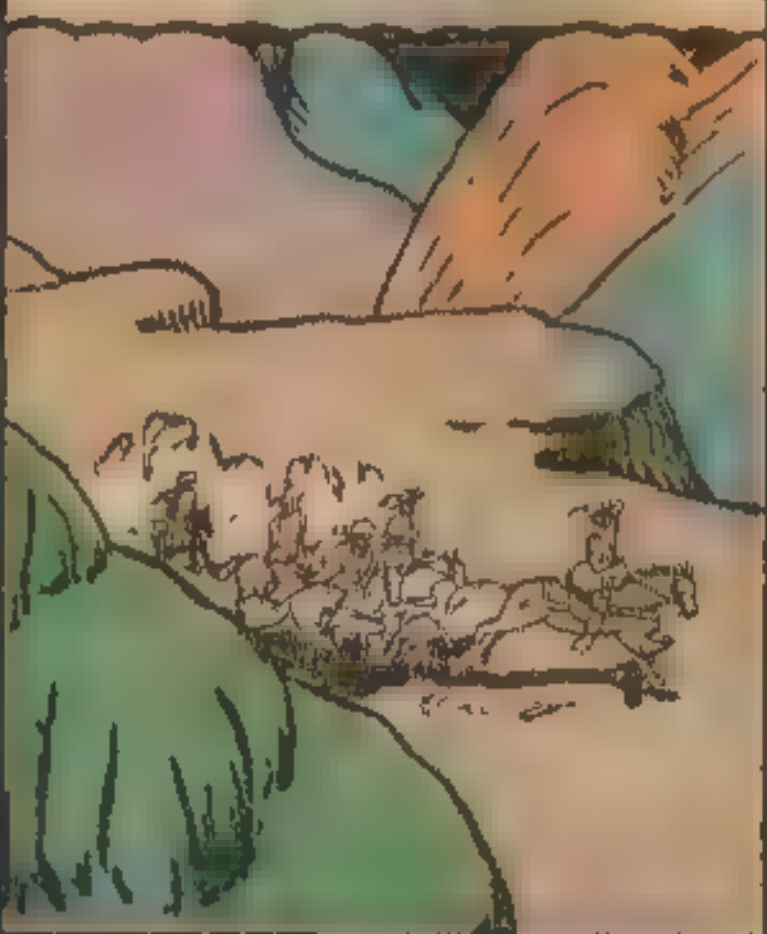


WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN PARIS, DE TREVILLE GRANTS LEAVES OF ABSENCE TO THE FOUR FRIENDS.



REPORT FOR DUTY
IN SIX DAYS!

THE FOUR MUSKETEERS AND THEIR LACKEYS SET OUT AT ONCE FOR BETHUNE AND THE CONVENT OF THE CARMELITES.



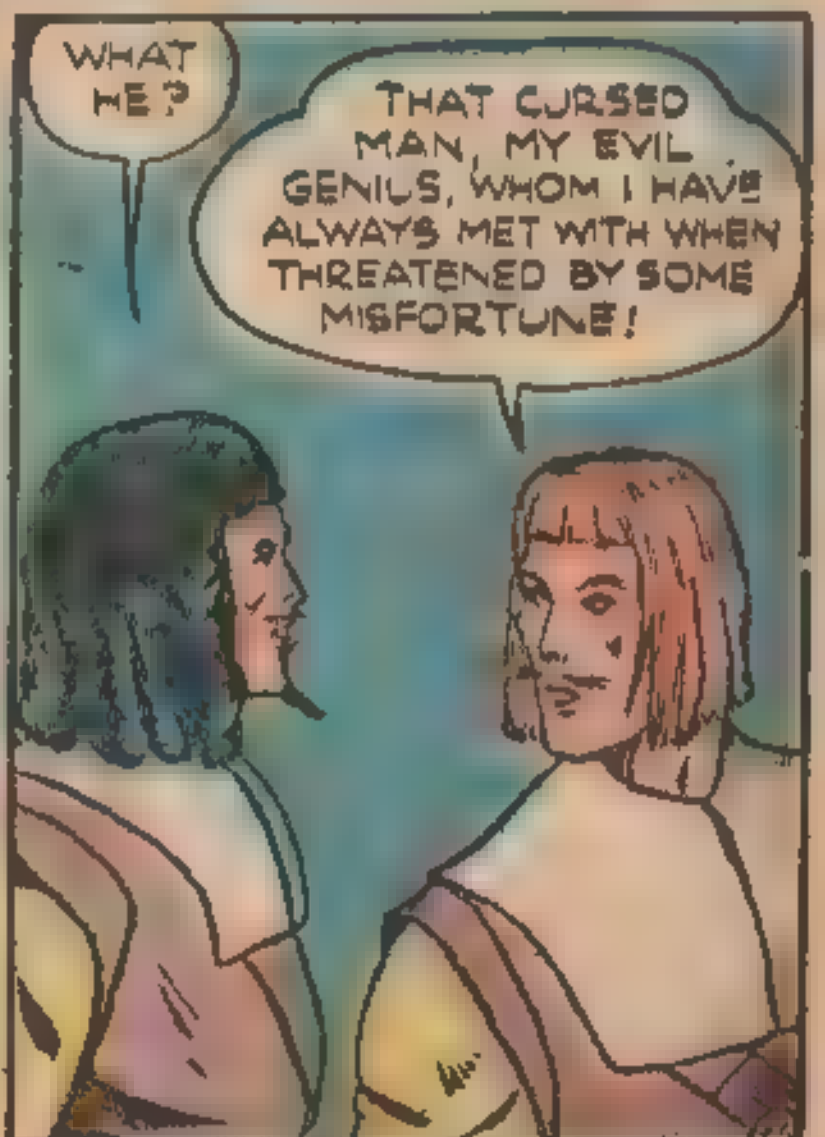
THAT EVENING, AS THEY DISMOUNT AT A HOTEL IN ARRAS, A HORSEMAN GALLOPS OUT OF THE POSTING-YARD.



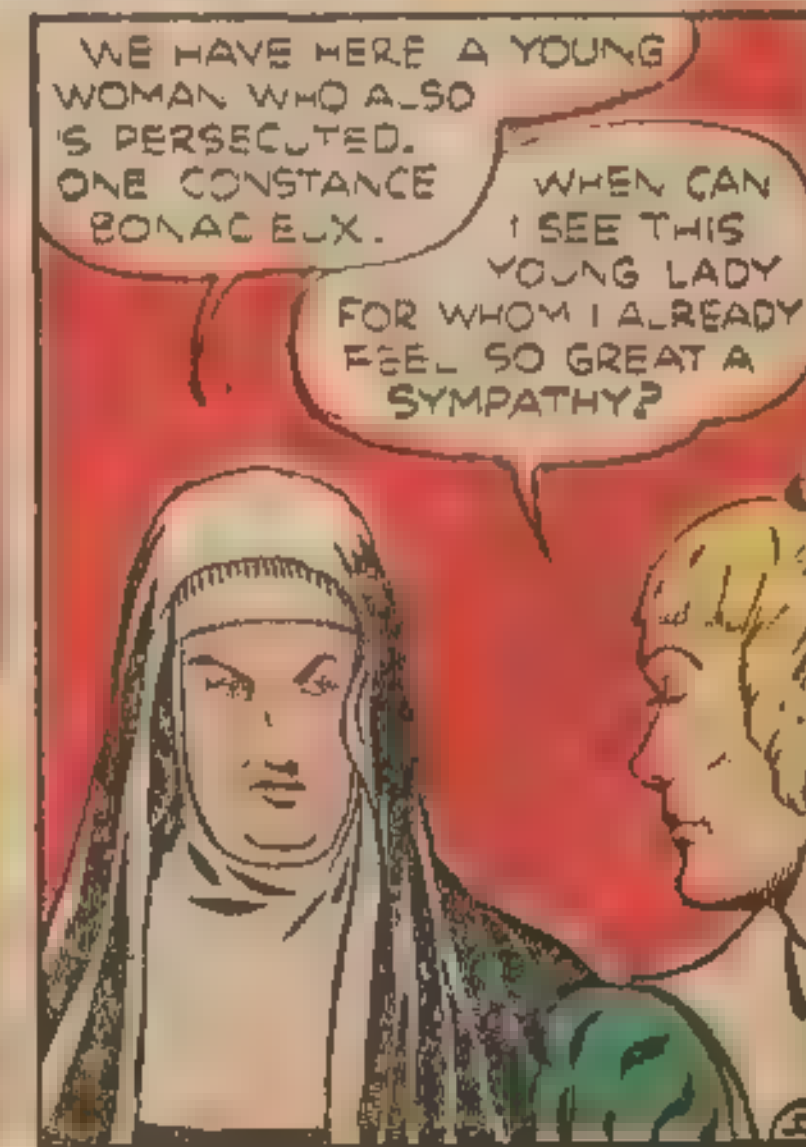
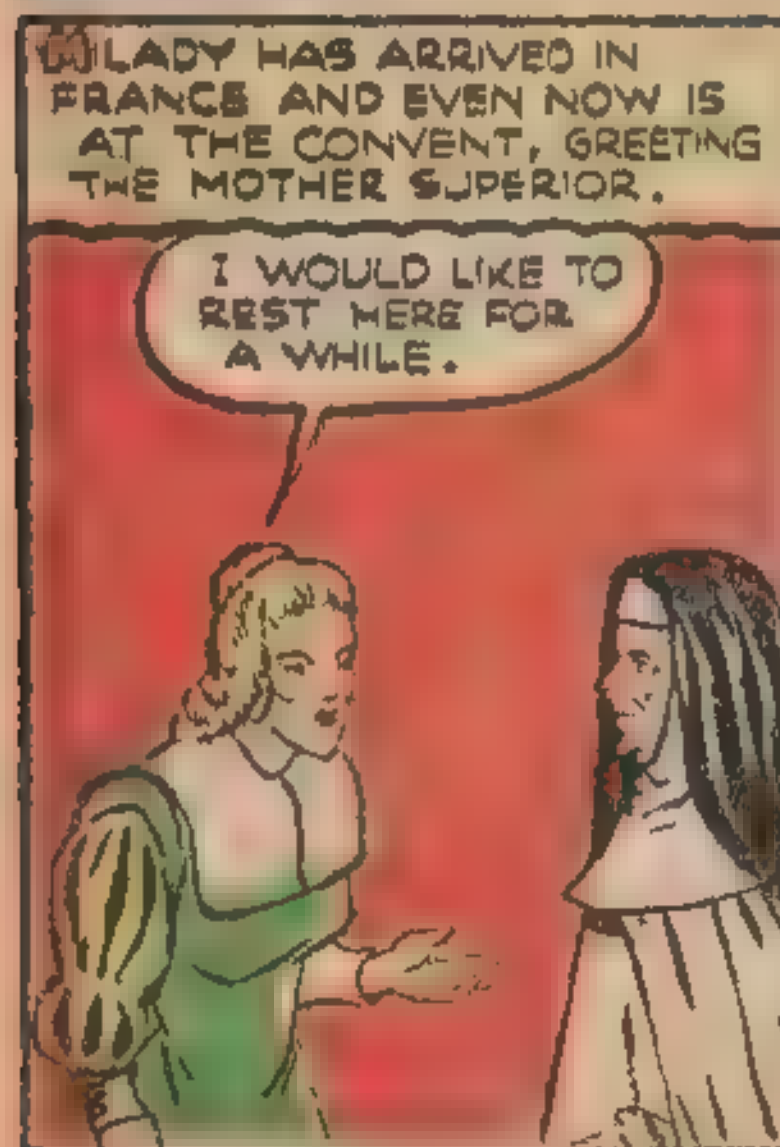
IT IS
HE!

WHAT
HE?

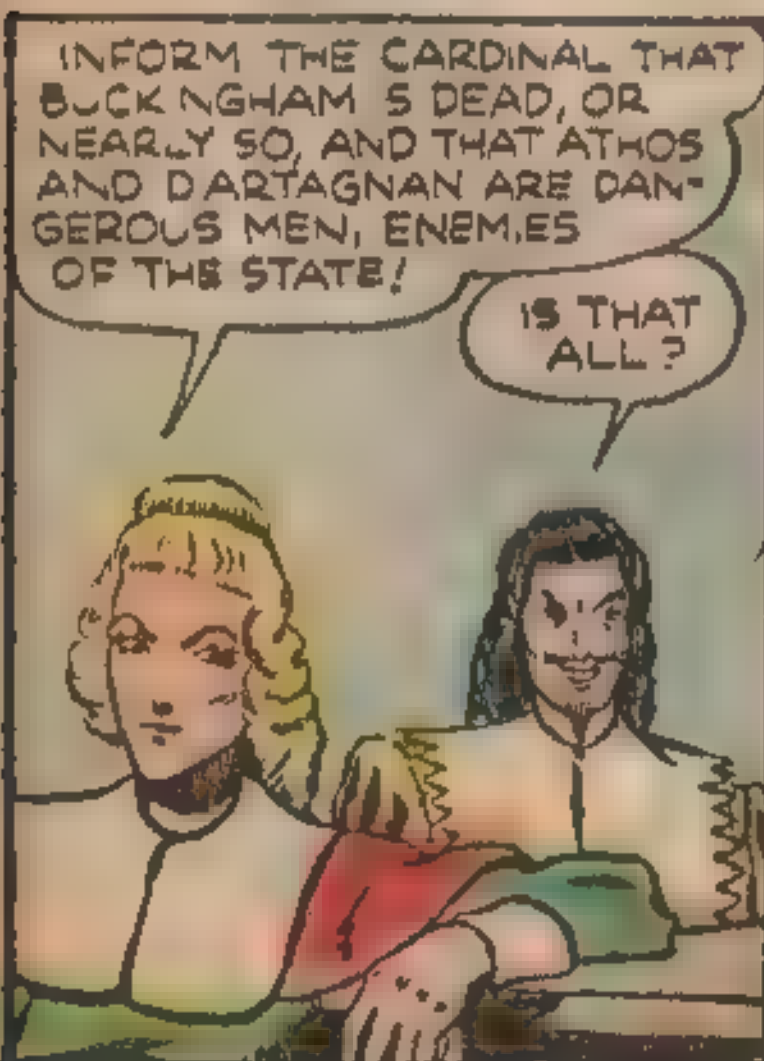
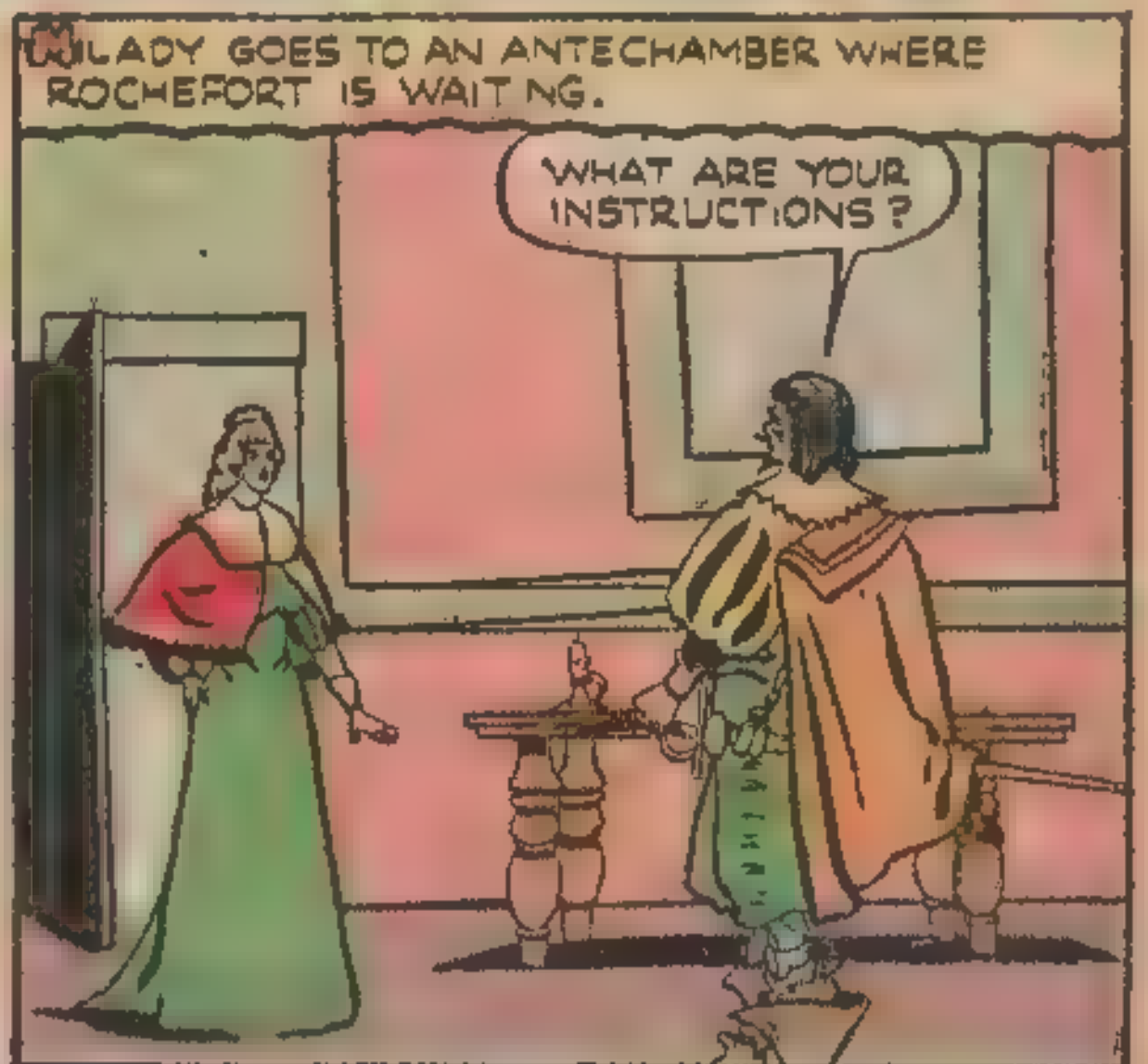
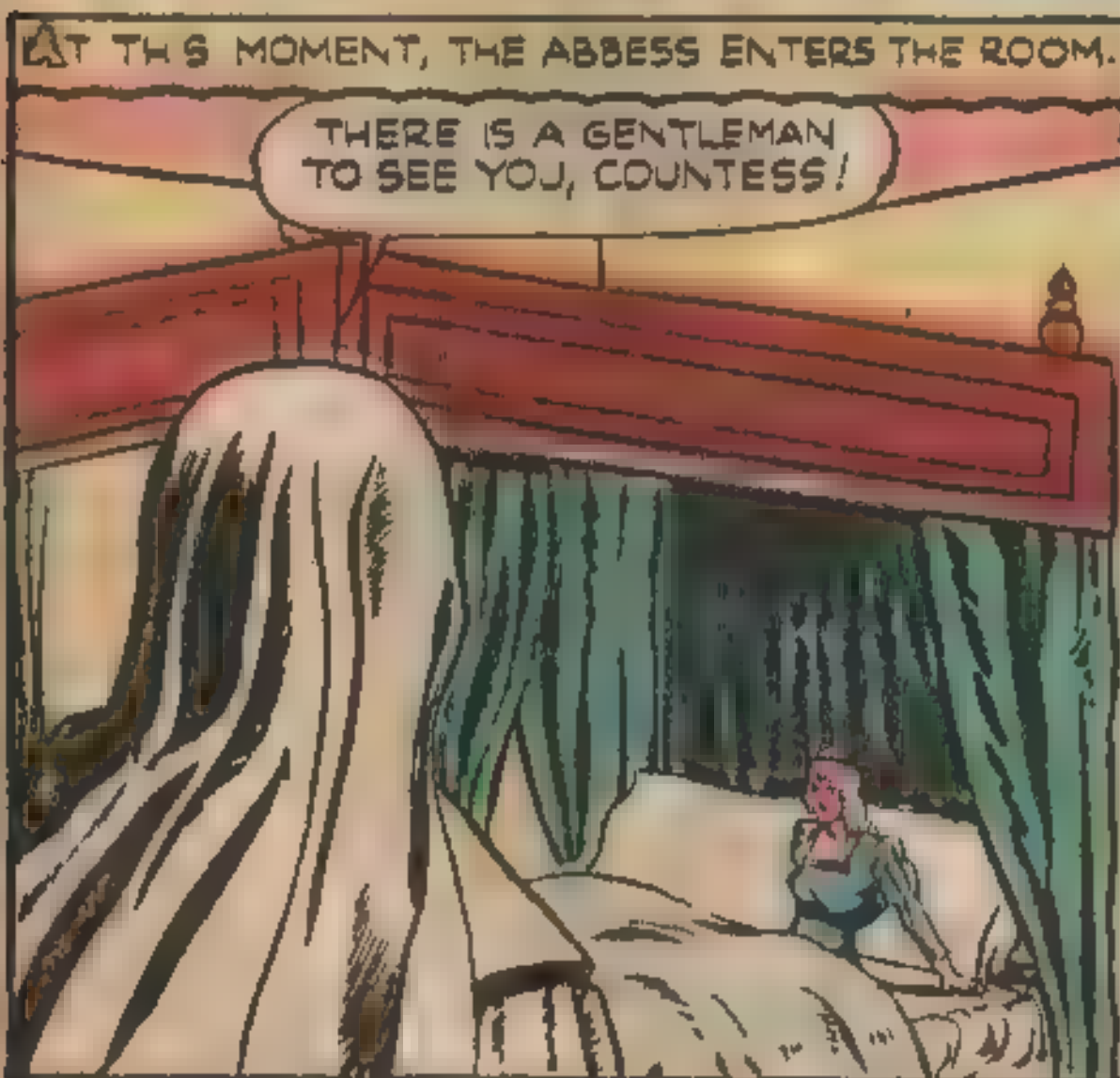
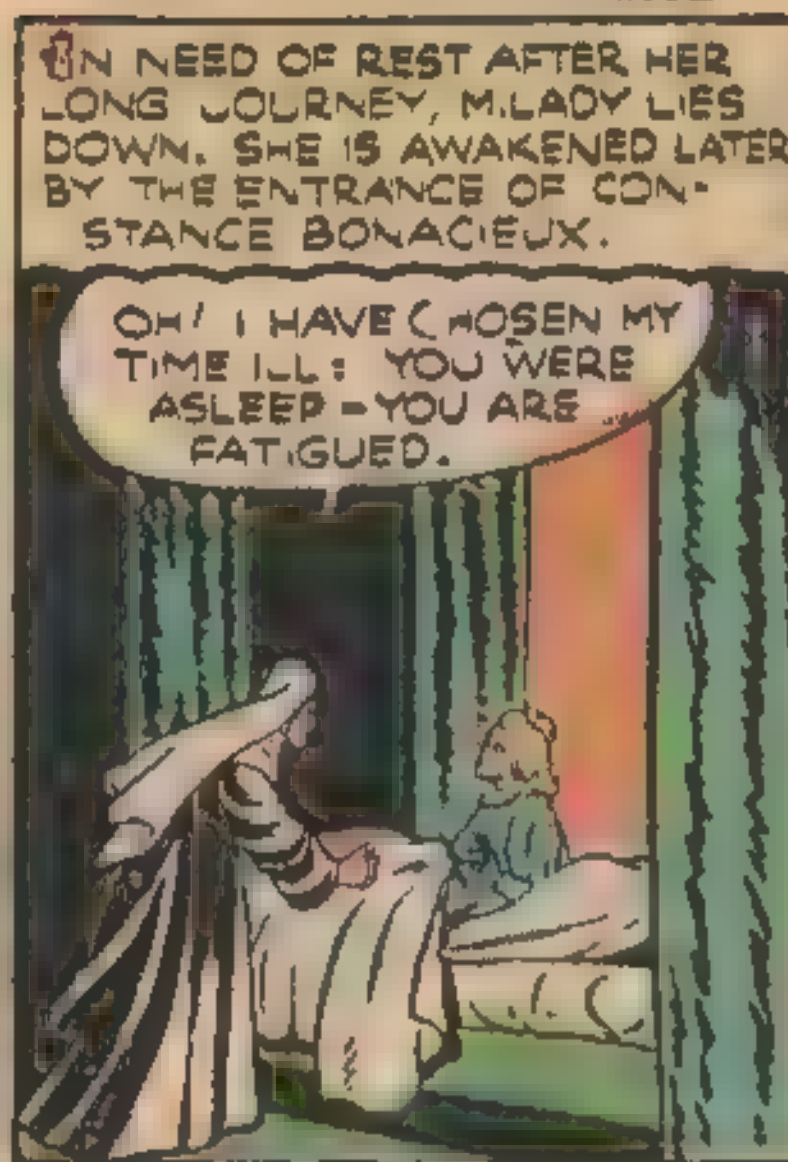
THAT CURSED
MAN, MY EVIL
GENIUS, WHOM I HAVE
ALWAYS MET WITH WHEN
THREATENED BY SOME
MISFORTUNE!

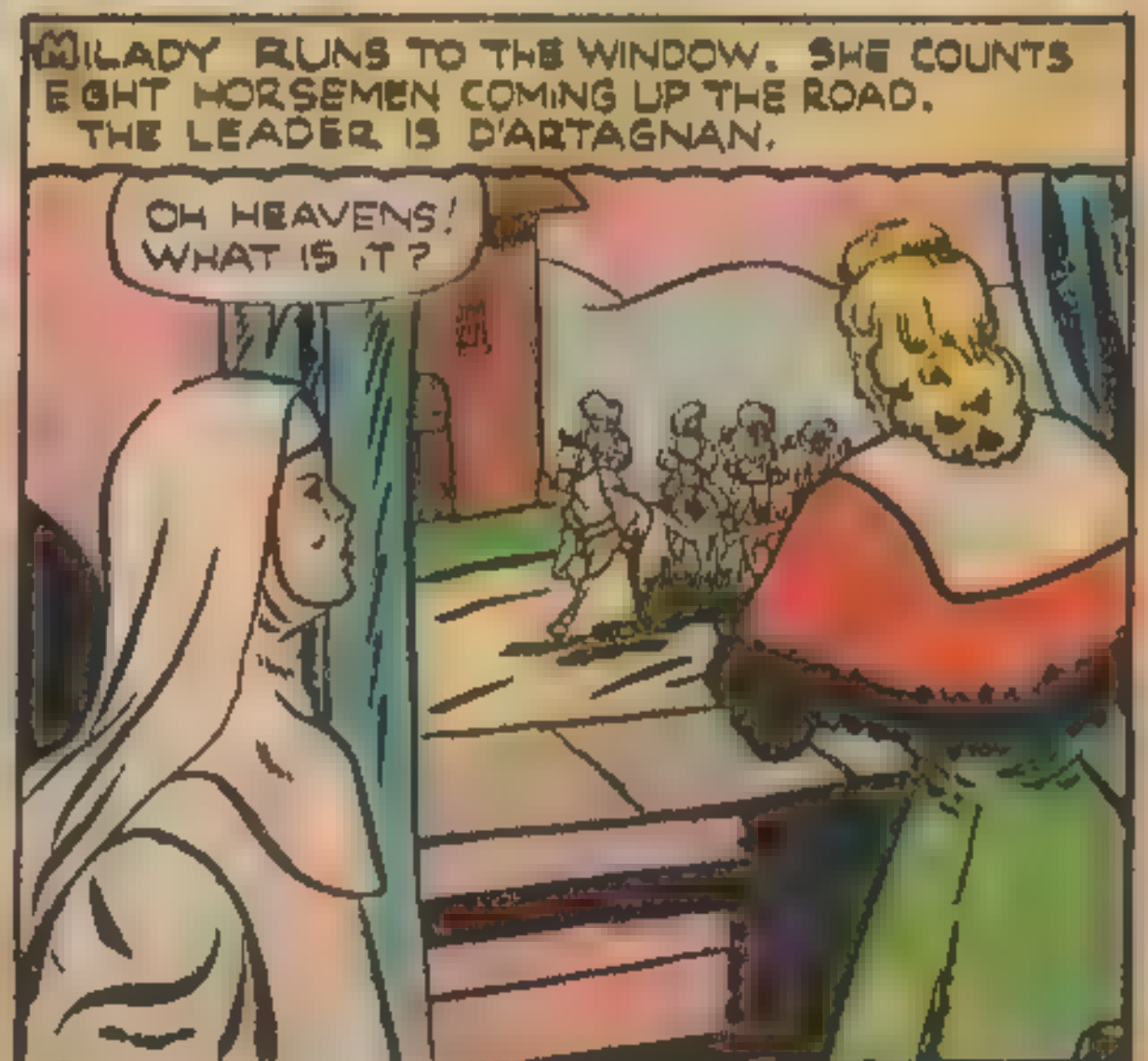
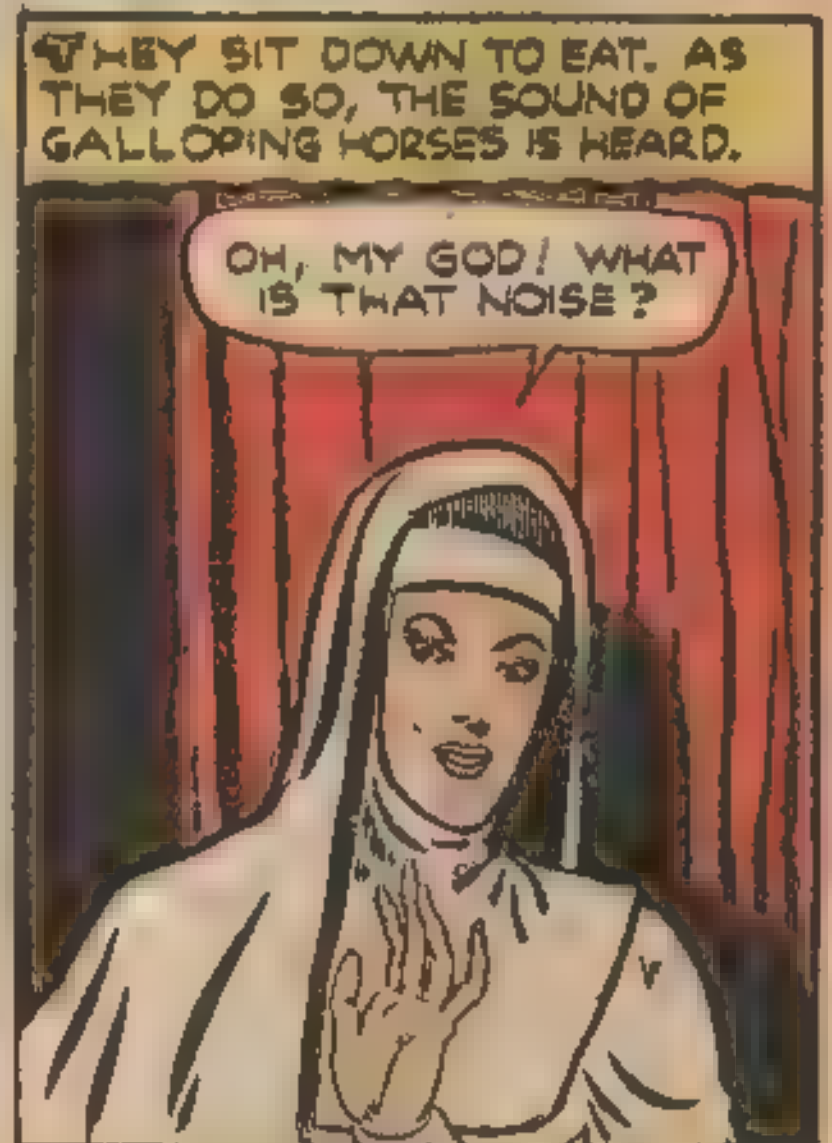
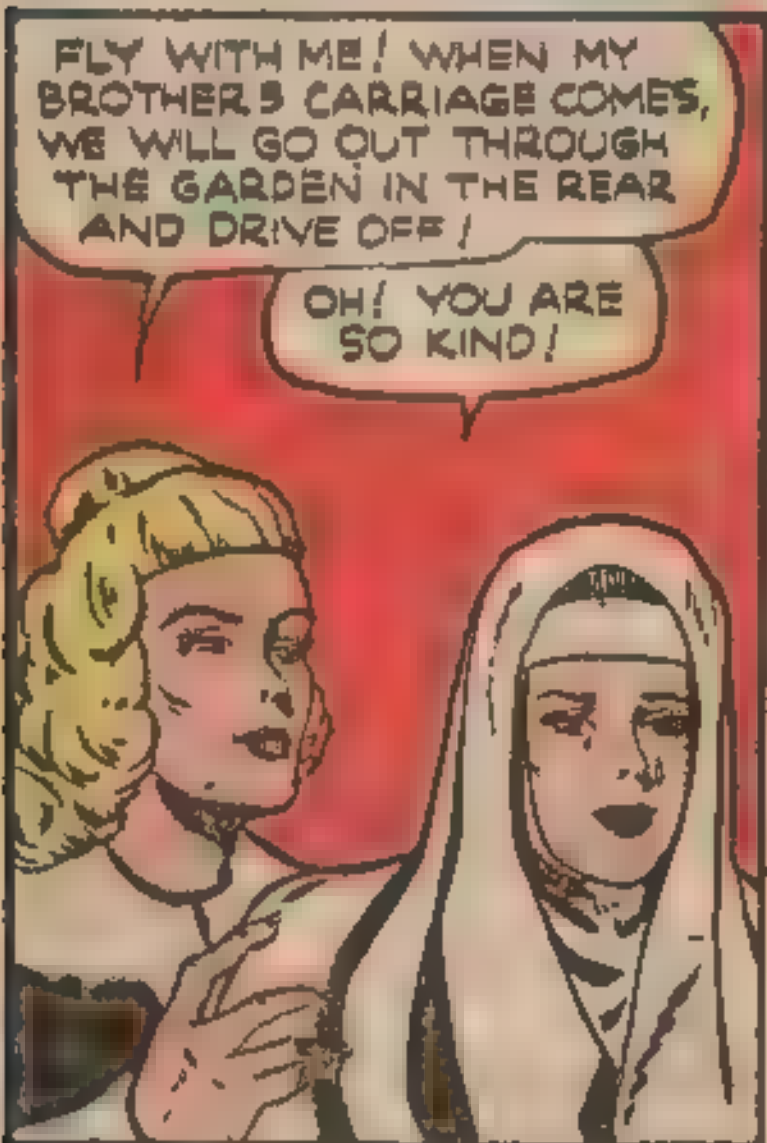
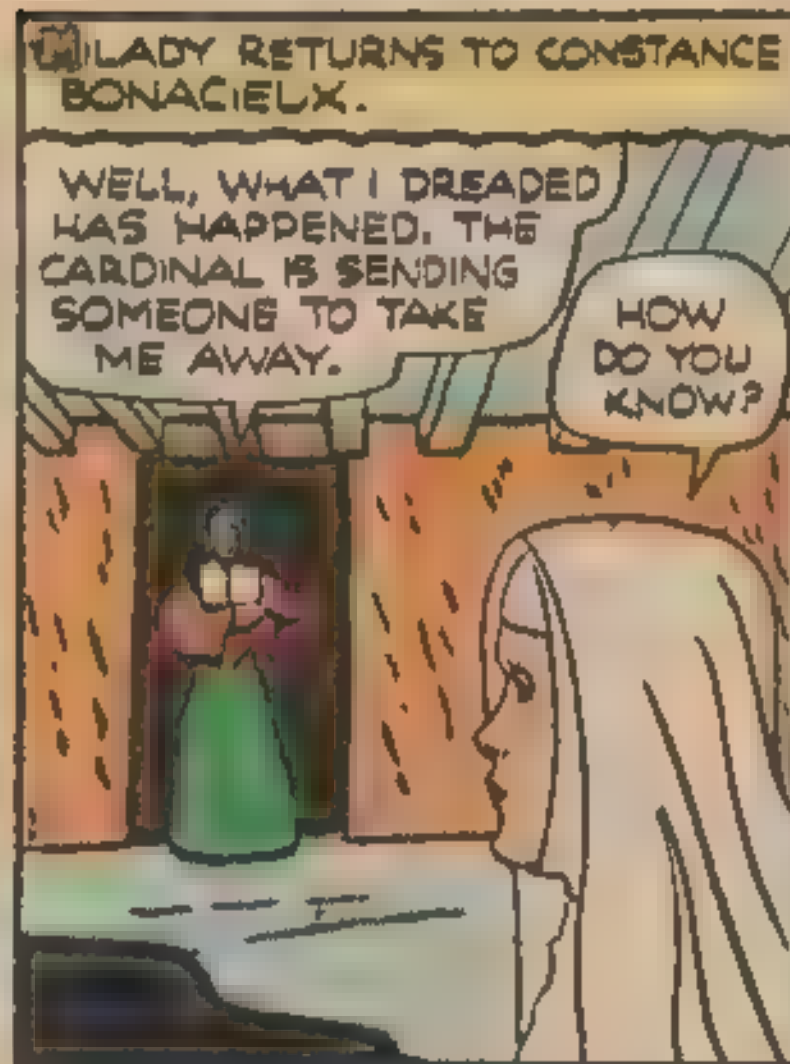


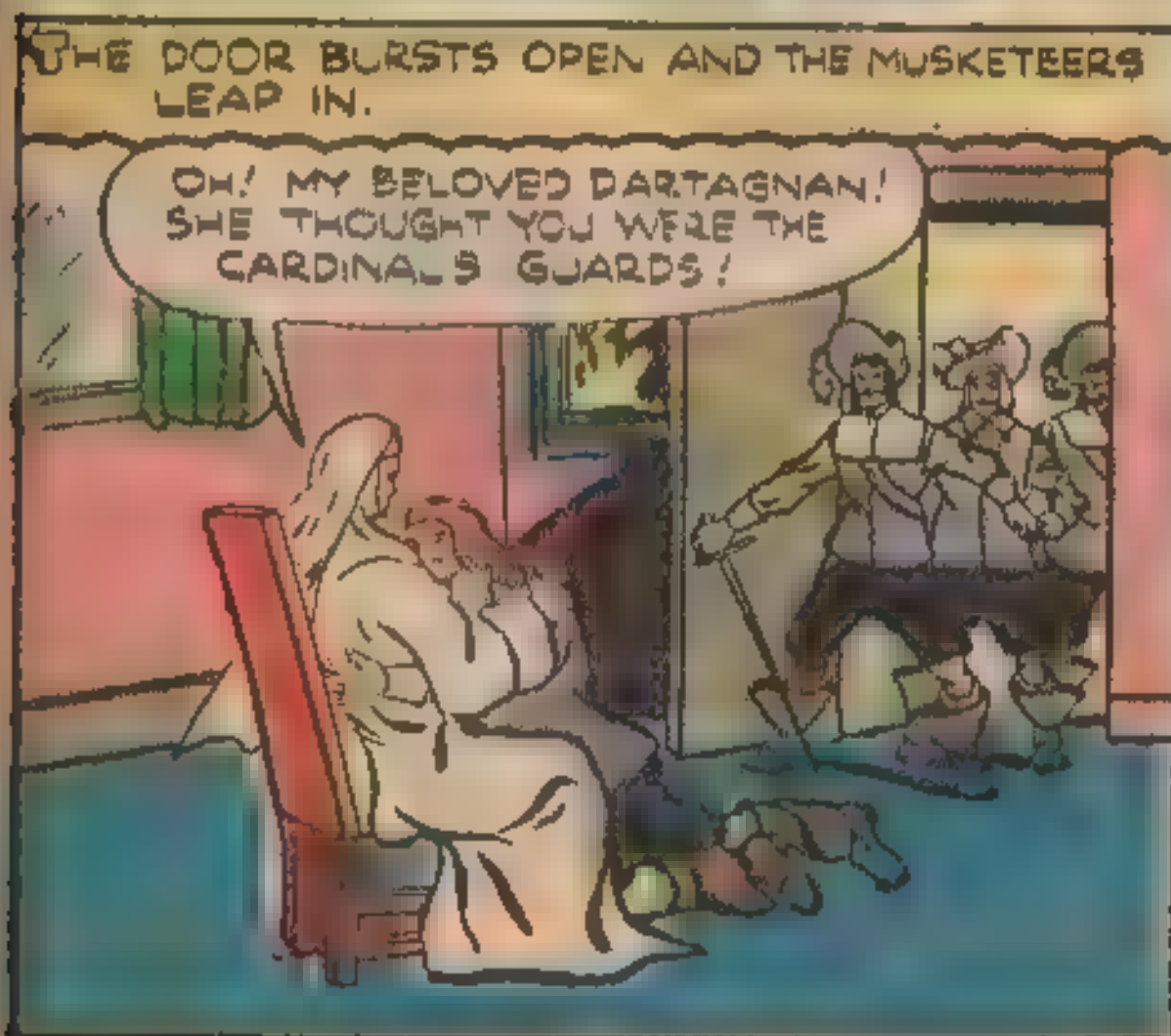
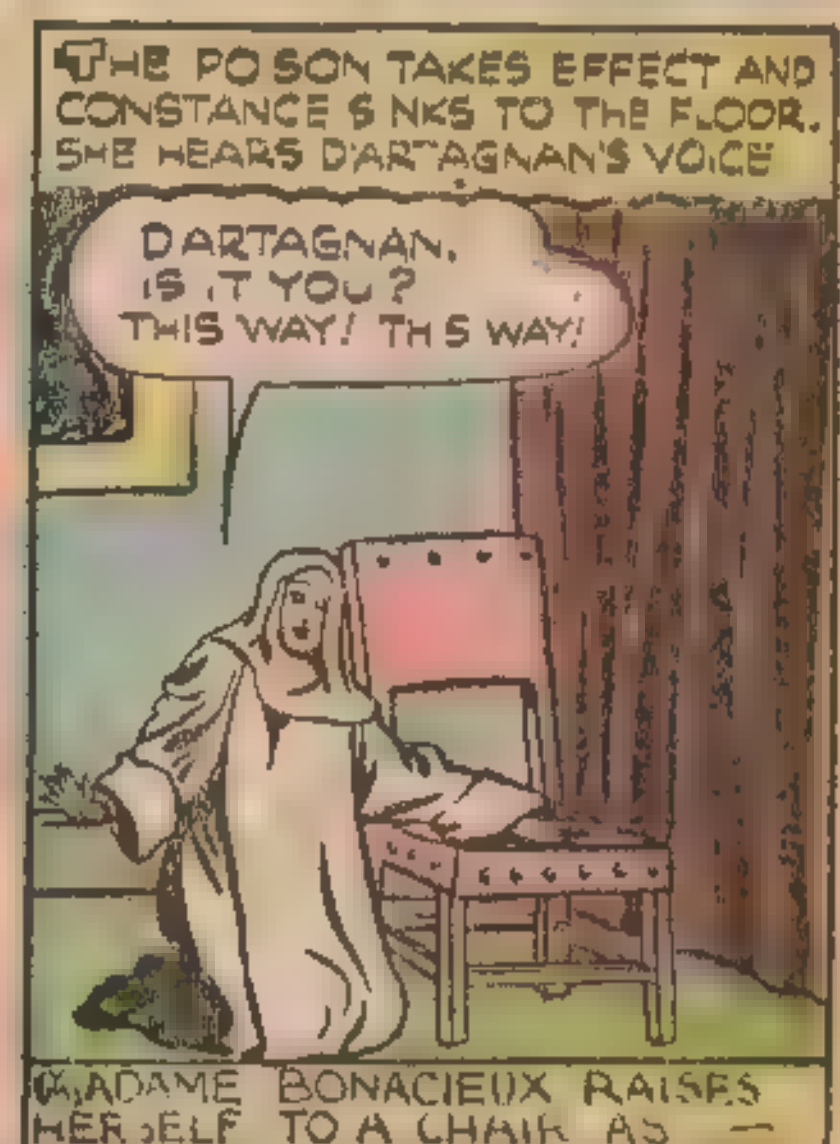
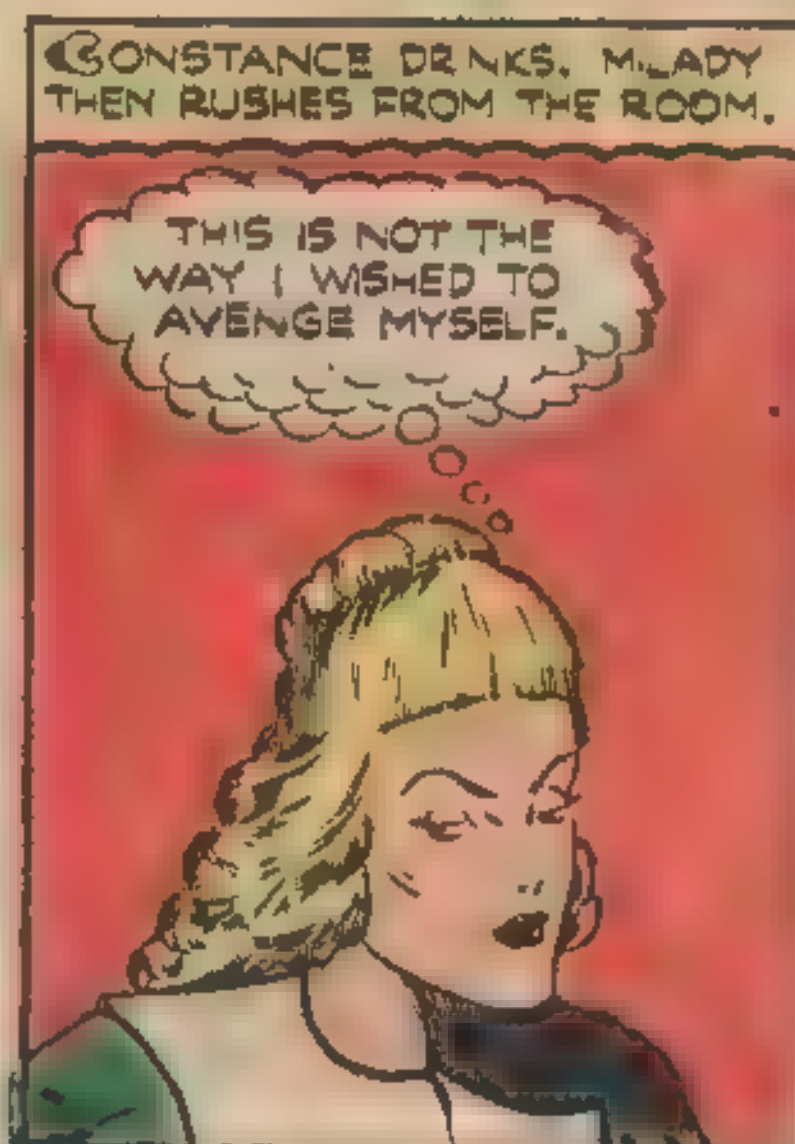
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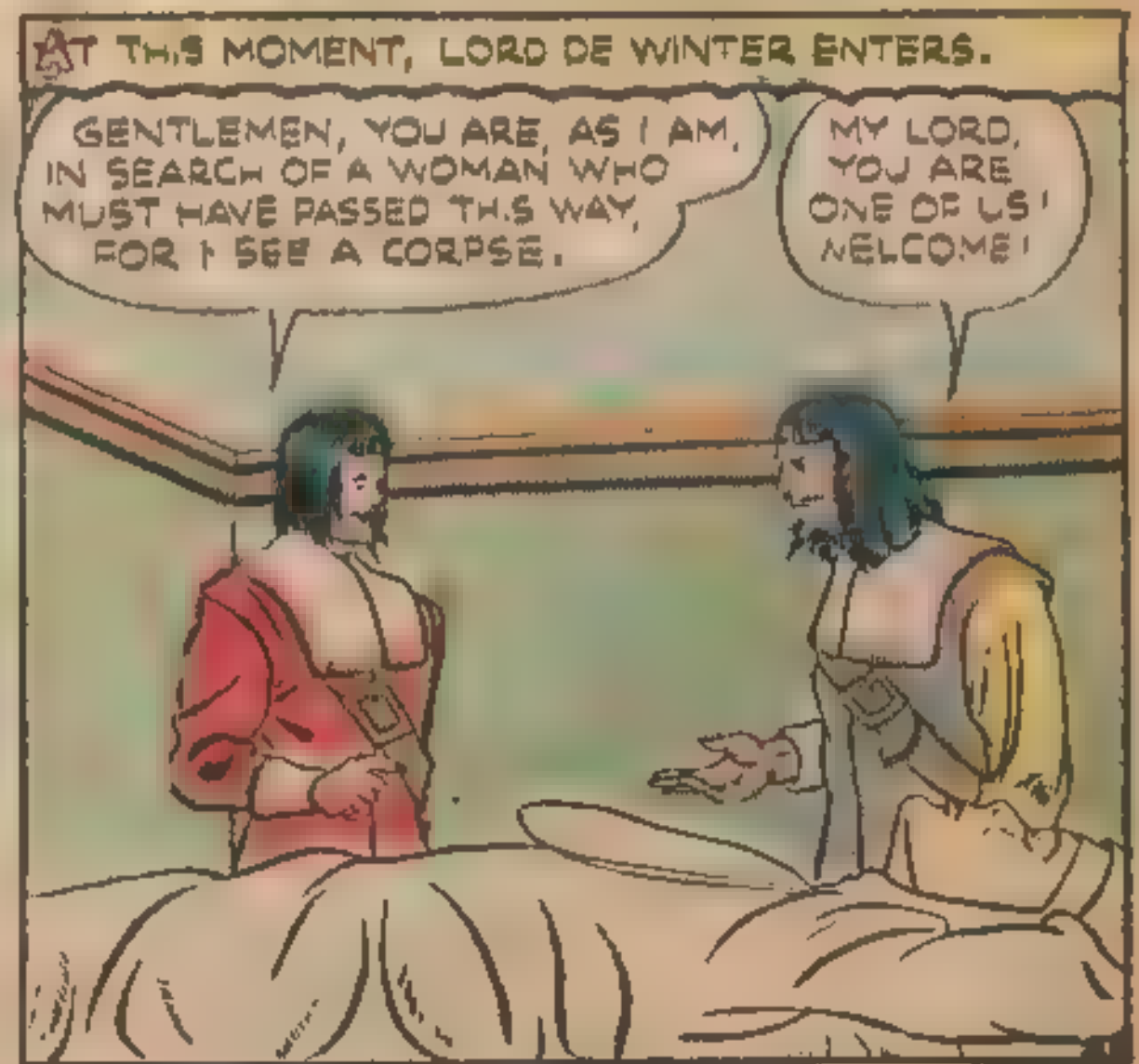
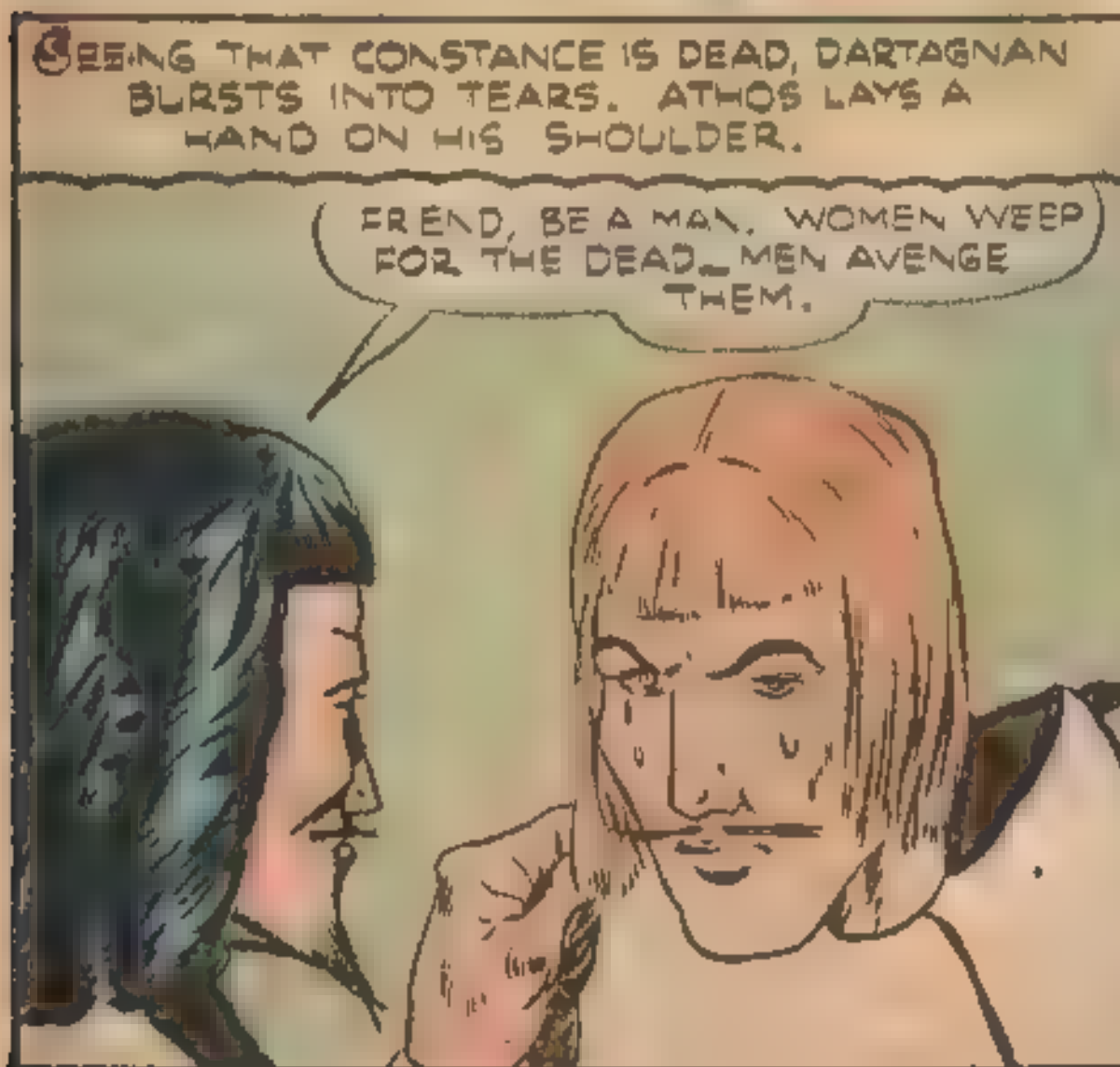
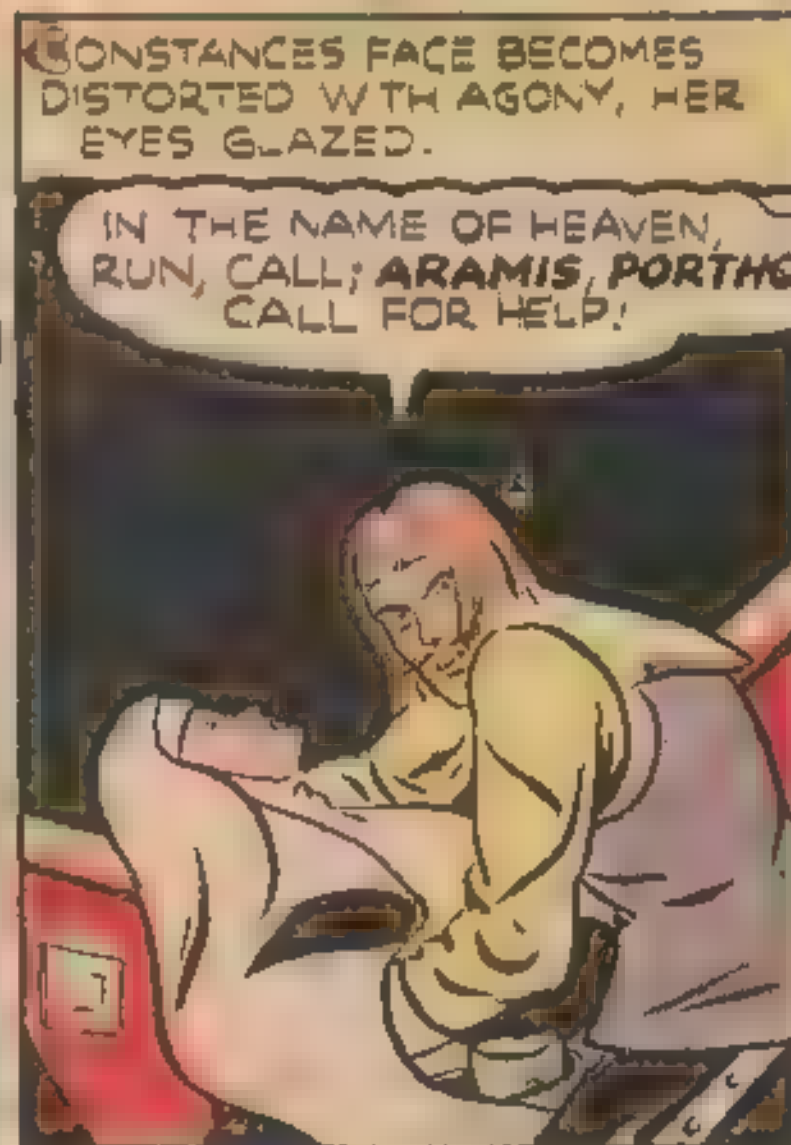
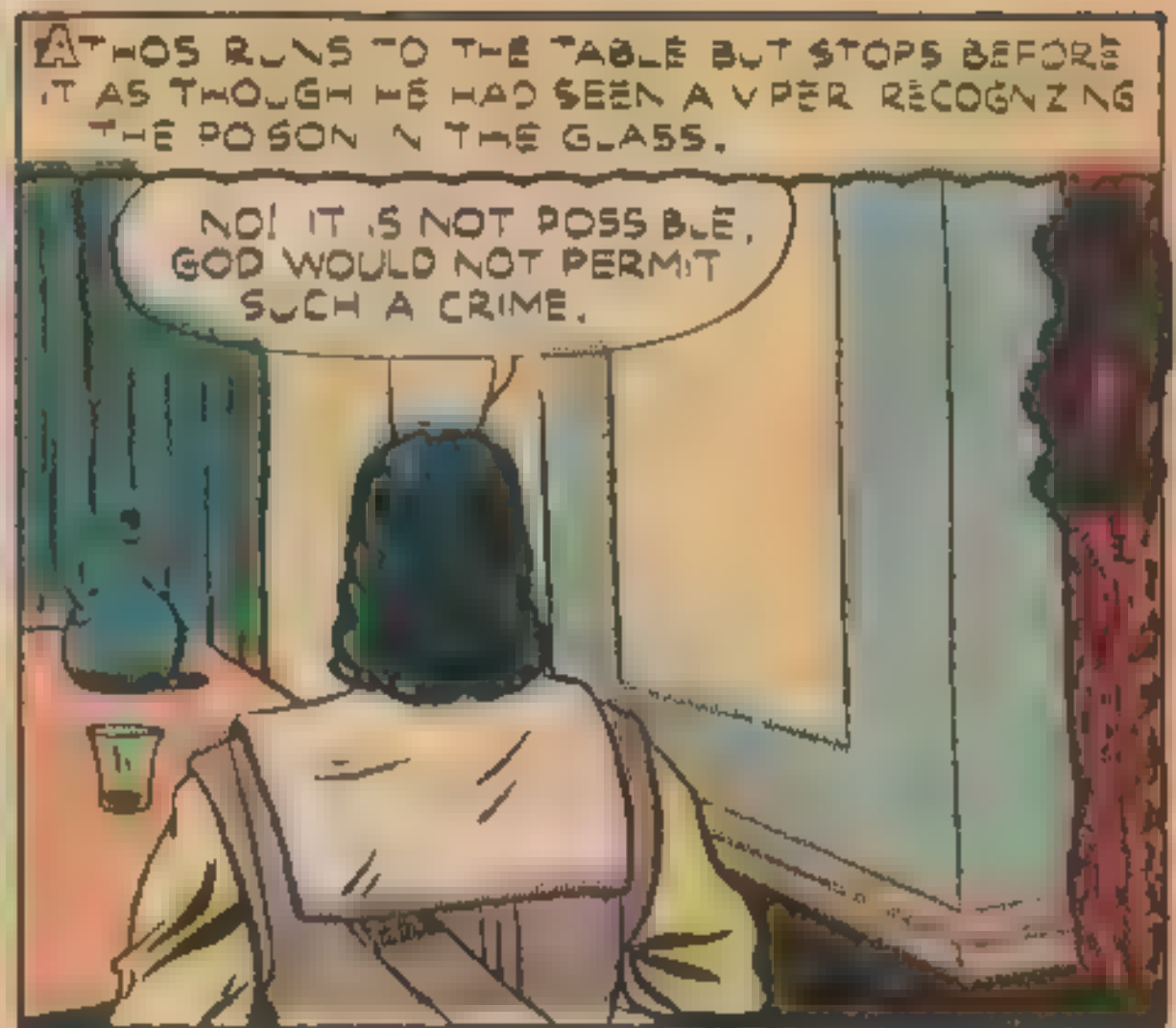
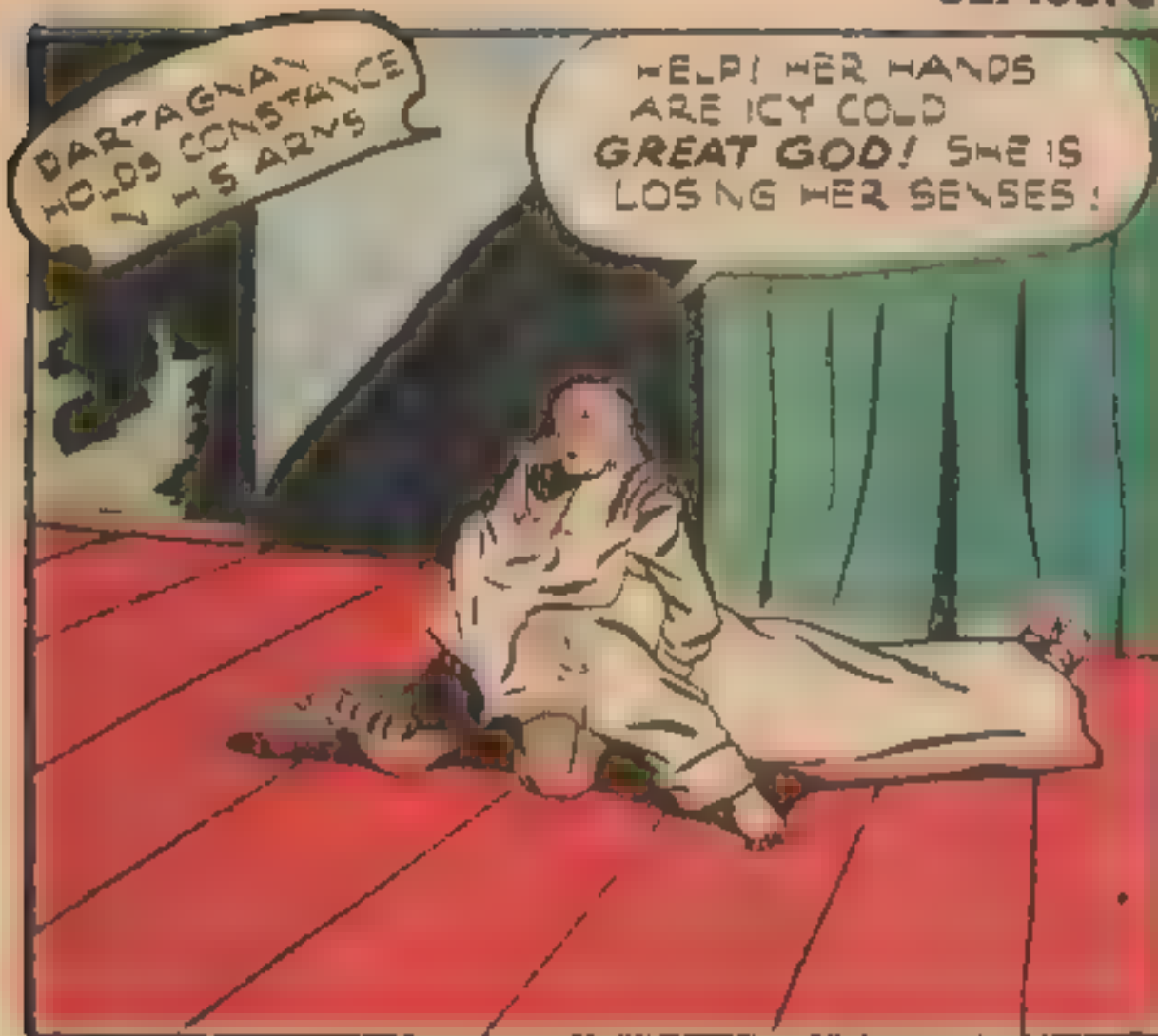
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ATHOS SENDS ARAMIS FOR THE SUPERIOR, AND WHEN SHE APPEARS ADDRESSES HER.

MADAME WE ABANDON TO YOUR PIOUS CARE THE BODY OF THAT UNFORTUNATE WOMAN. TREAT HER AS ONE OF YOUR SISTERS. WE WILL RETURN SOME DAY TO PRAY OVER HER GRAVE.



ALL FIVE FOLLOWED BY THEIR LACKEYS TAKE THEIR WAY TO THE TOWN OF BETHUNE AND STOP AT AN INN.

SHALL WE NOT FOLLOW THAT WOMAN? SHE WILL ESCAPE US!

I WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HER.



NOW, GENTLEMEN, LET EACH ONE RETIRE TO HIS OWN APARTMENT. I TAKE CHARGE OF EVERYTHING. ONLY, DARTAGNAN, GIVE ME THE PIECE OF PAPER WHICH FELL FROM THAT MAN'S HAT AT ARRAS.

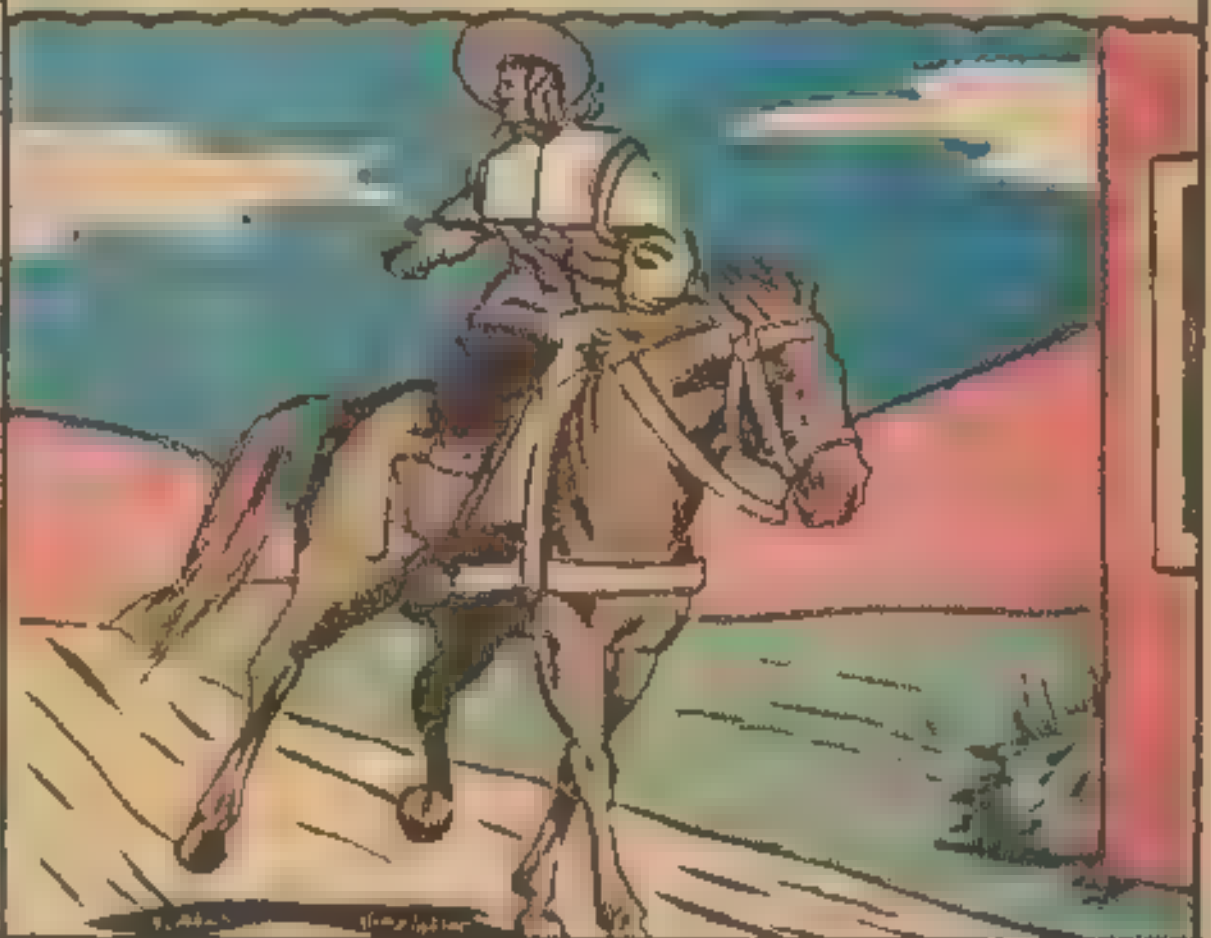


ATHOS CALLS THE LACKEYS AND ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS.

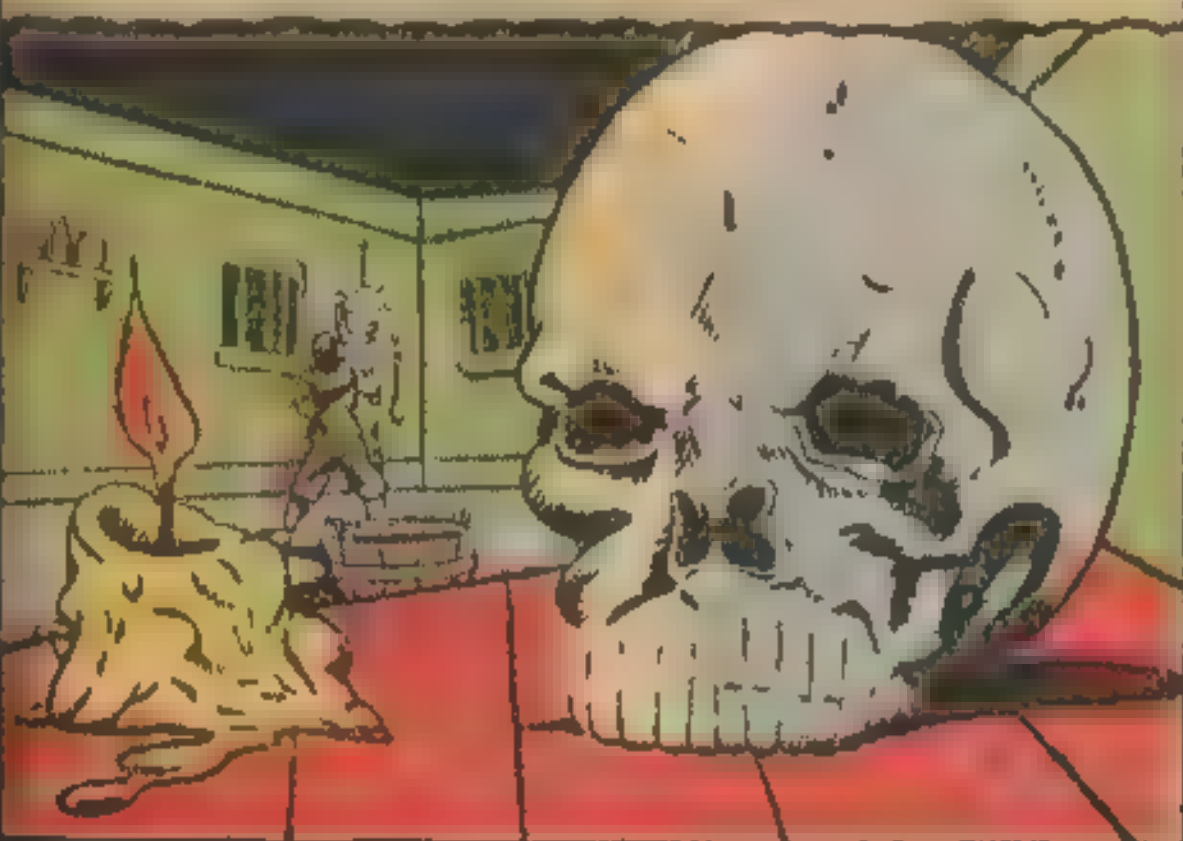
GO TO ARMENTERES; FIND M. LADY. THREE STAY ON GUARD. ONE OF YOU RETURN TO THE ROAD TO DIRECT US.



ATHOS THEN MOUNTS HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF. AFTER A LONG RIDE, HE COMES TO A SOLITARY, GHOSTLIKE HOUSE - DARK AND SILENT AS THE TOMB. HE DISMOUNTS AND ENTERS.



THE MAN WHOM ATHOS HAD COME SO FAR TO SEEK IS ENGAGED IN FASTENING TOGETHER WITH AN IRON WRE, THE BONES OF A SKELETON. THE SKULL RESTS ON THE TABLE.



THE TWO CONVERSE IN LOW TONES. ATHOS WRITES HIS NAME ON A PAPER AND SHOWS IT TO THE STRANGER.

I AM READY TO OBEY.



ATHOS LEAVES THE STRANGER AND RIDES BACK TO THE INN.

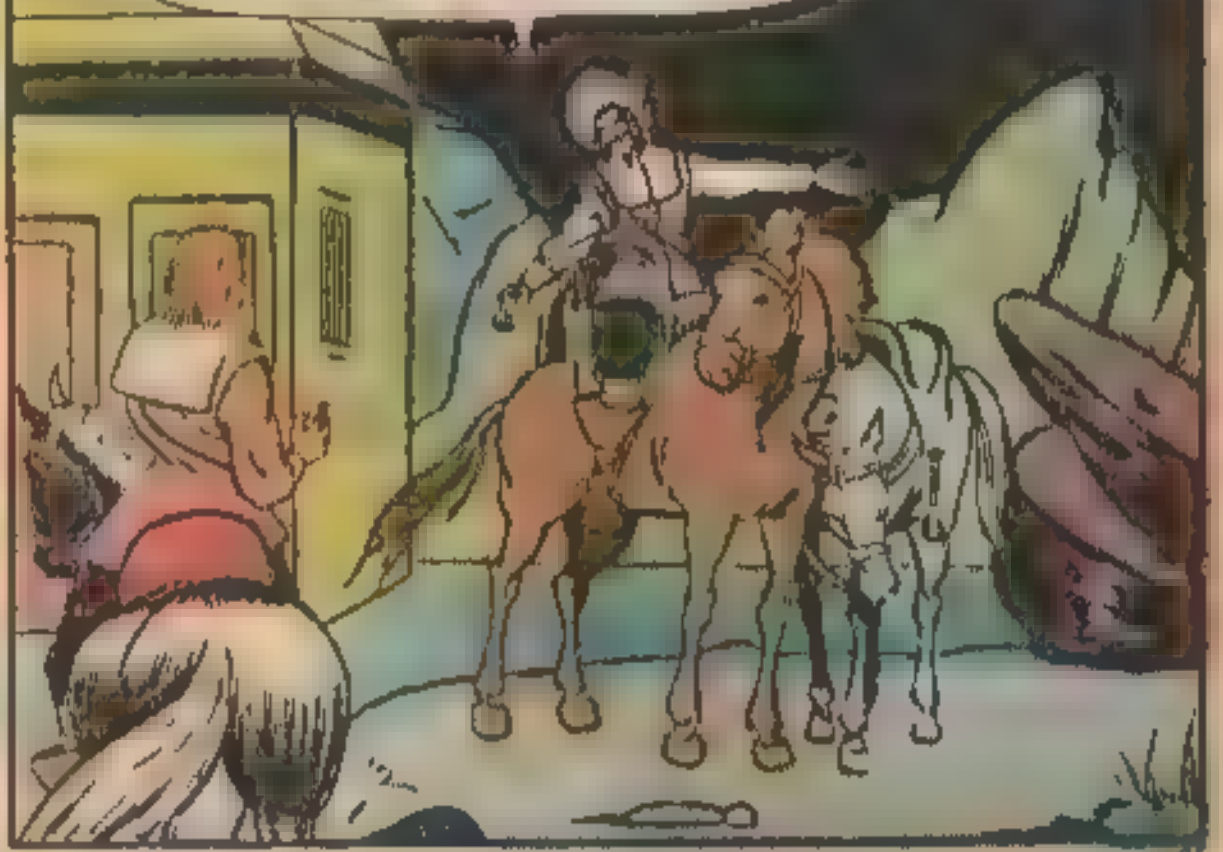
WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

PREPARE YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR AN EXPEDITION.



EVERYONE EXAMINES HIS ARMS AND PUTS THEM IN ORDER. THE HORSES ARE SADDLED AND MOUNTED.

PATIENCE! ONE OF OUR PARTY IS STILL WANTING!



ATHOS LEAPS LIGHTLY INTO THE SADDLE OF HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF.

WAIT FOR ME — I WILL SOON BE BACK!



IN A QUARTER OF AN HOUR HE RETURNS, ACCOMPANIED BY A TALL MAN, MASKED AND ENVELOPED IN A LARGE RED CLOAK..



WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE PRESENCE OF THE STRANGER TO THE OTHERS, ATHOS TAKES COMMAND.

GENTLEMEN, FOLLOW ME!



THE GRIM CAVALCADE RIDES OFF INTO THE NIGHT.



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SUDDENLY GR MAUD APPEARS BEFORE THEM AND BECKONS TO ATHOS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? HAS SHE LEFT ARMENTIERES?

YES!

WHERE IS SHE?

WITHIN HALF A LEAGUE IN THE DIRECTION OF RIVER LYS

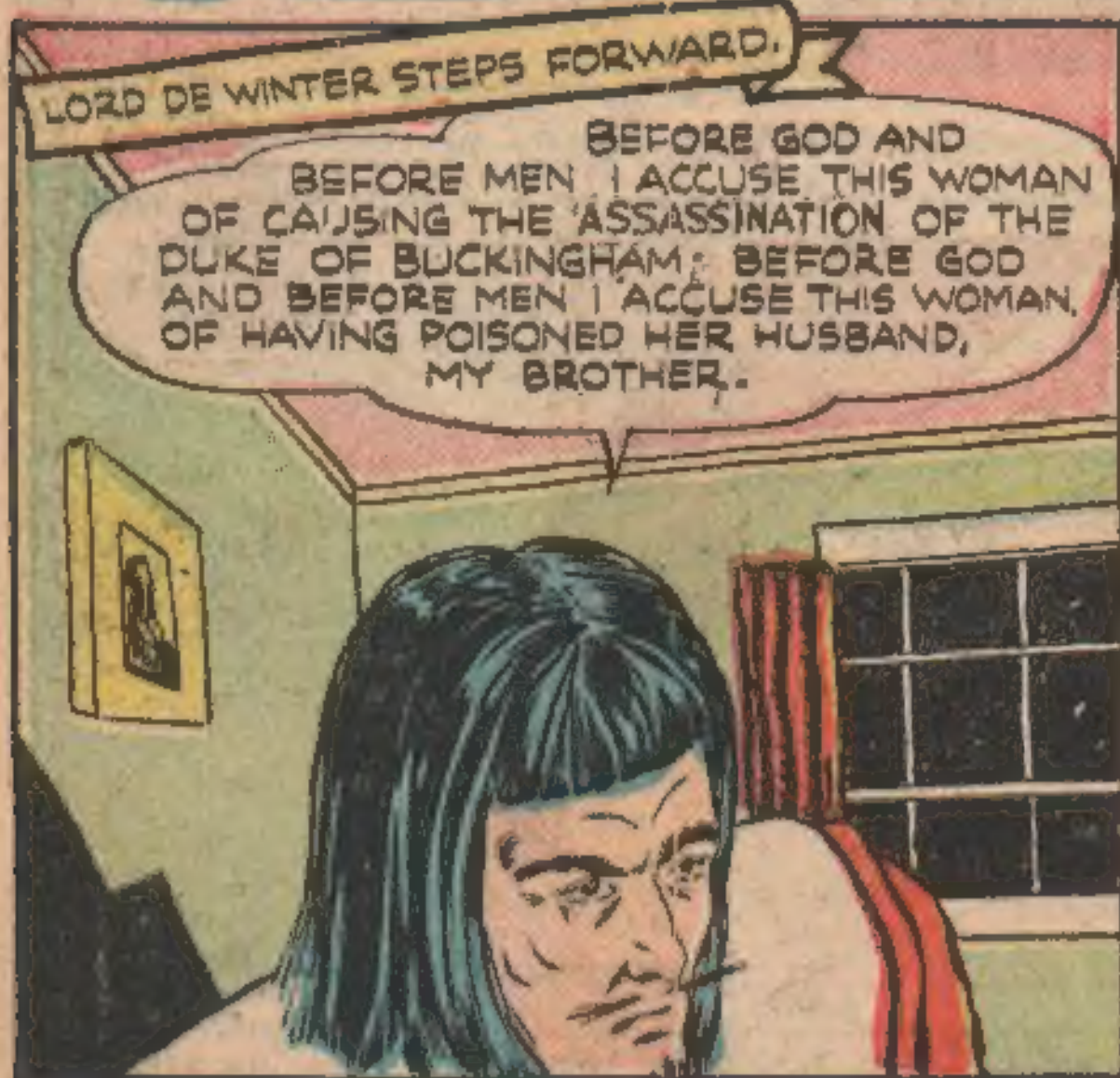
THAT IS WELL. LEAD US ON!

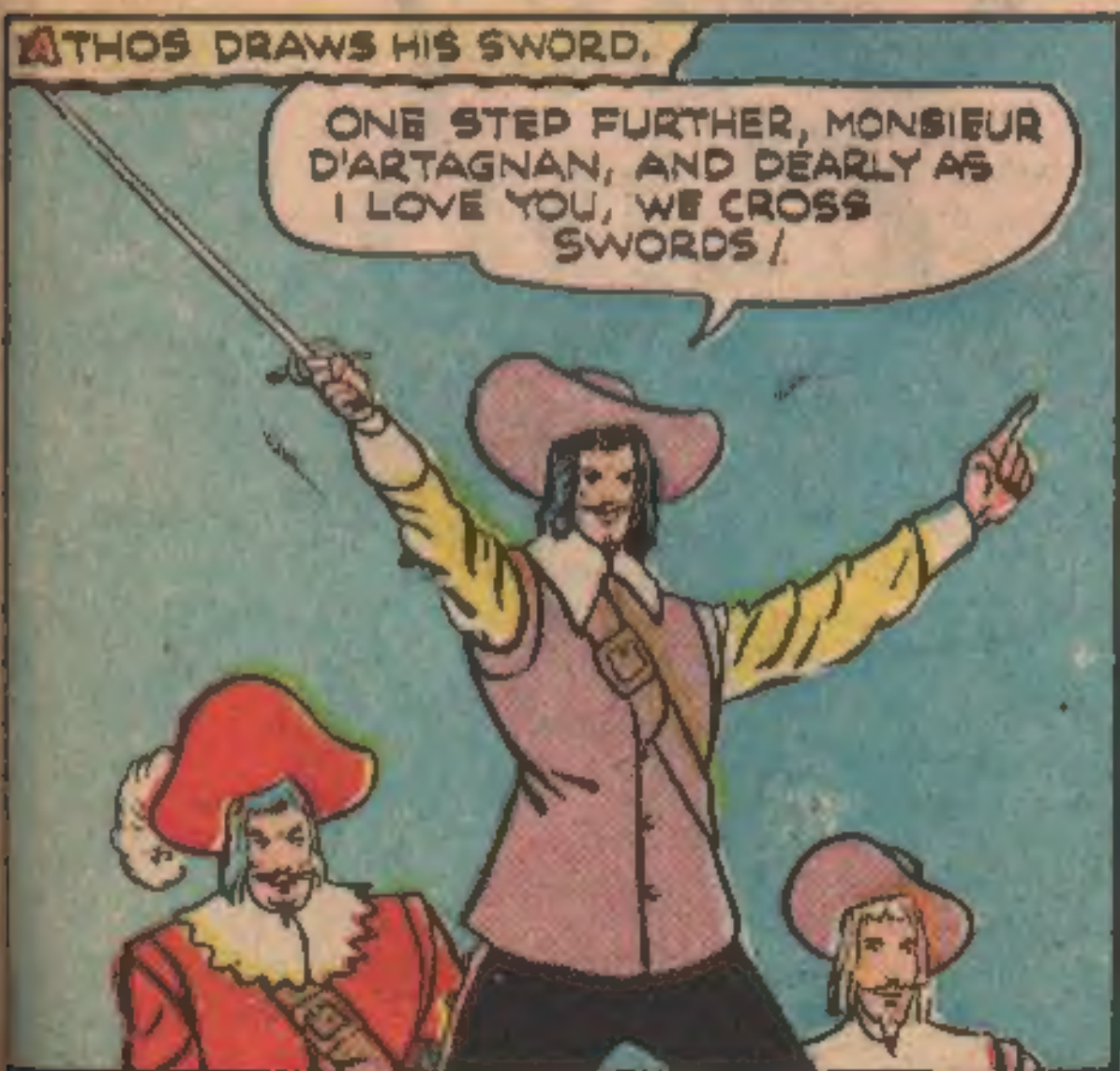
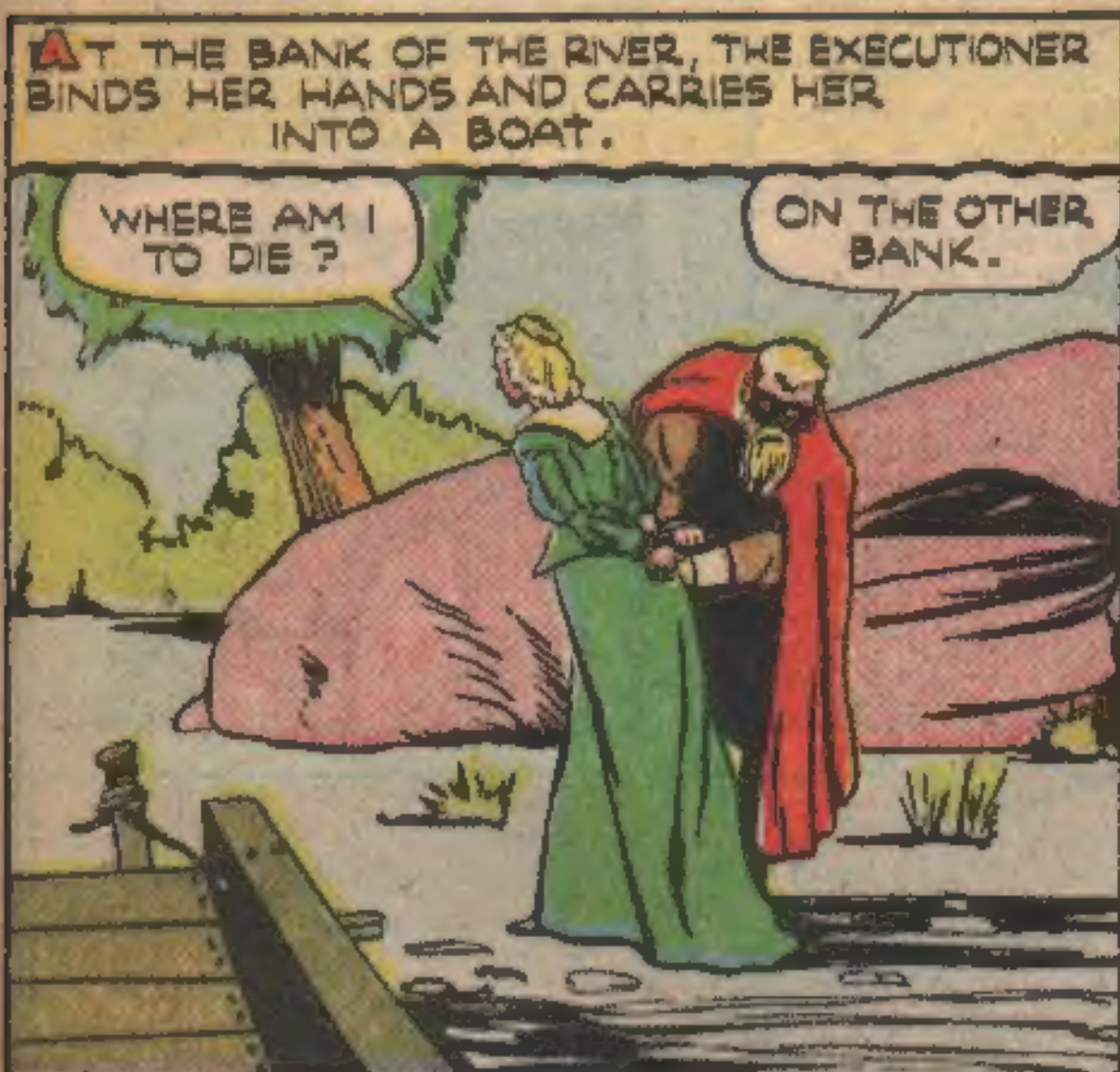
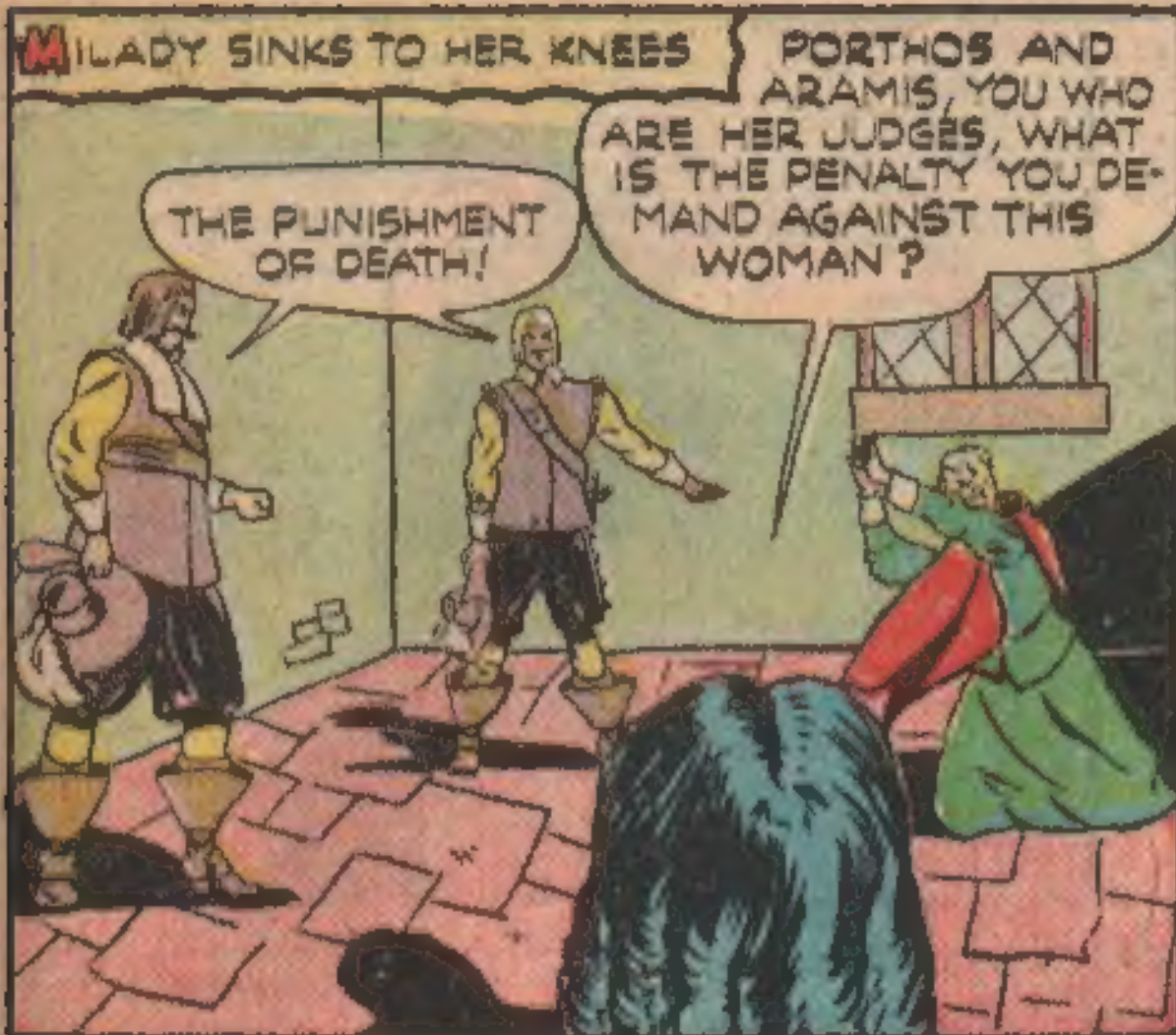
THE PARTY FOLLOWS GR MAUD.

THERE IS A FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND BY THE BLUE SPLENDOR OF THE SERPENT OF FIRE THEY DISTINGUISH A LITTLE HOUSE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.

ATHOS DISMOUNTS AND GOES TO THE WINDOW. HE SEES MILADY SEATED BEFORE THE DYING EMBERS OF A FIRE

A HORSE NEIGHS AND MILADY RAISES HER HEAD. ATHOS SMASHES THE WINDOW AND LIKE THE SPECTER OF VENGEANCE, SPRINGS INTO THE ROOM. THE OTHERS BURST THROUGH THE DOOR.

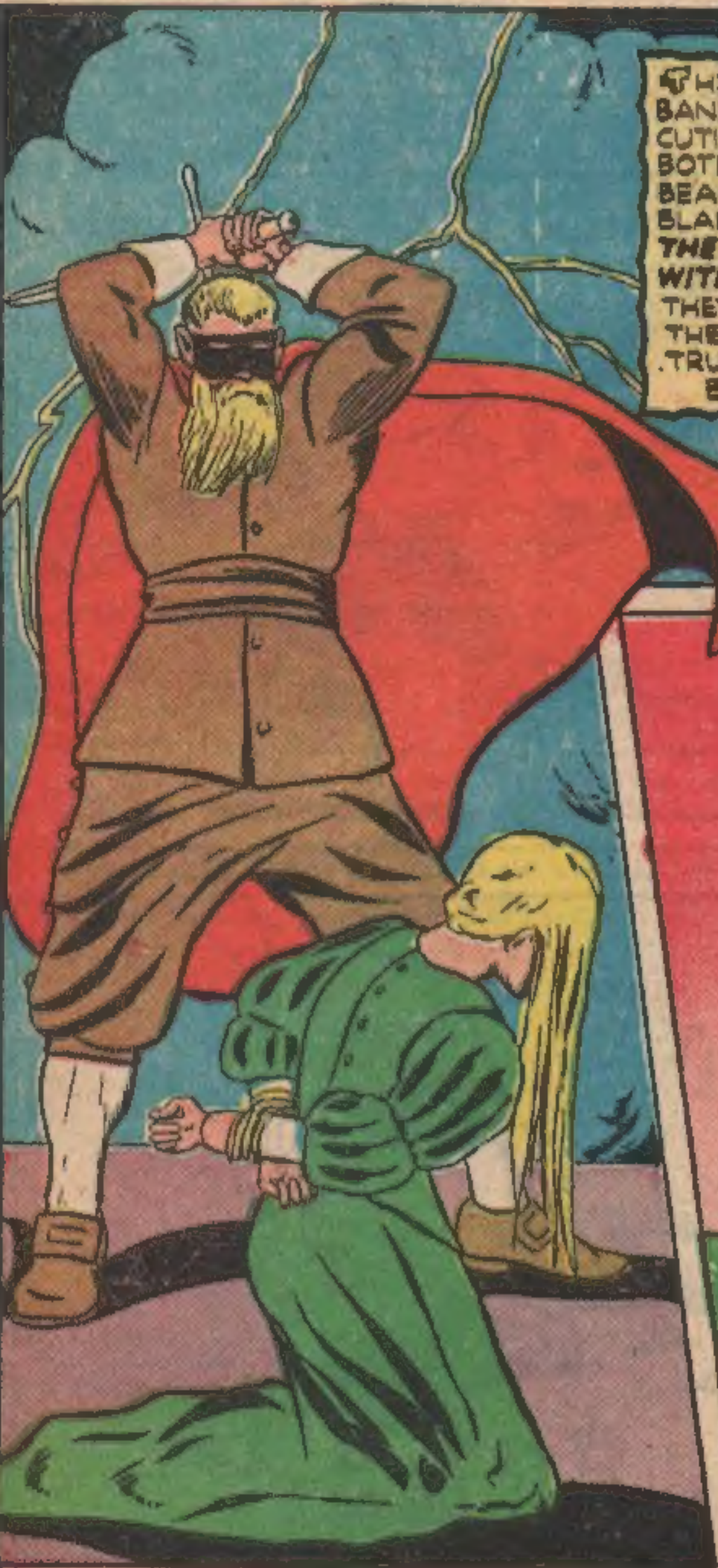




THE BOAT GLIDES TO THE OTHER BANK. MILADY, DURING HER PASSAGE, HAS CONTRIVED TO UNTIE THE CORD THAT BOUND HER FEET.



WHEN THE BOAT REACHES THE BANK, MILADY JUMPS LIGHTLY ON SHORE AND TAKES TO FLIGHT. BUT THE SOIL IS MOIST: SHE SLIPS AND FALLS ON HER KNEES.



WHEN, FROM THE OTHER BANK, THEY SEE THE EXECUTIONER SLOWLY RAISE BOTH HIS ARMS. A MOON-BEAM FALLS UPON THE BLADE OF THE LARGE SWORD. **THE TWO ARMS FALL WITH A SUDDEN FORCE:** THEY HEAR THE CRY OF THE VICTIM, THEN A TRUNCATED MASS SINKS BENEATH THE BLOW.

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HER SOUL. THOUGH SHE WAS A DEMON ON EARTH AND BLASTED MY FUTURE, I FORGIVE HER. NOW THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE, LET US BE OFF!



The End

HOMEWARD BOUND TO PARIS, WHERE THEY ARE FATED TO BE FORGIVEN BY THE CARDINAL BECAUSE OF THEIR VALOR, D'ARTAGNAN AWARDED WITH A CAPTAINCY; SPIRITUAL ARAMIS TO ENTER A MONESTARY; BIG BLUFF PORTHOS TO TAKE A BRIDE AND ATHOS TO CONTINUE HIS CHARMING, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY LIFE.



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